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THE TWO RONNIES

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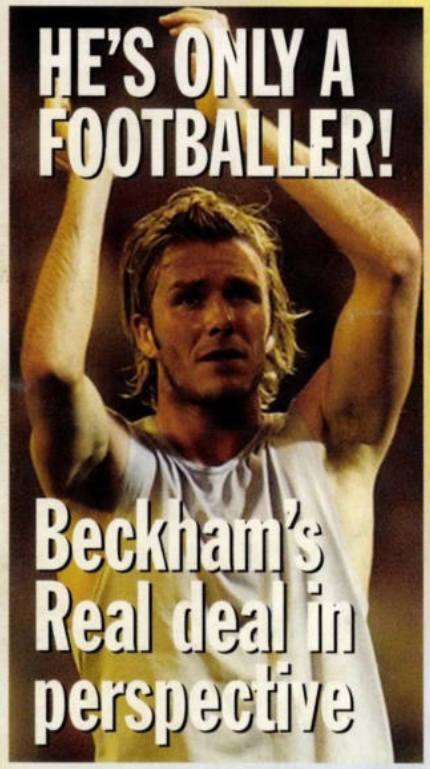

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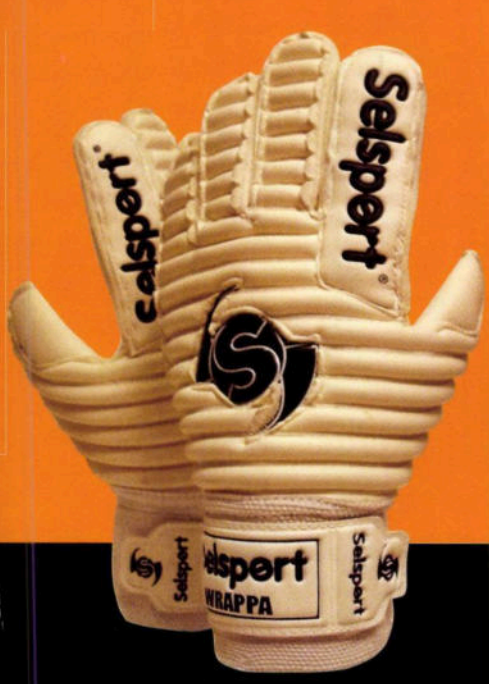

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August 2003

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I WOULD LOVE to be able to declare this issue of *World Soccer* a Beckham-free zone. But I can't. It has been truly unpleasant to watch Beckham and his wife on their Asian tour, stuffing their pockets with as much cash as they can lay their grubby little mitts on. But the story of Beckham's transfer – between the world's two biggest clubs – deserves analysis, starting with Sid Lowe's view from Madrid over the page.

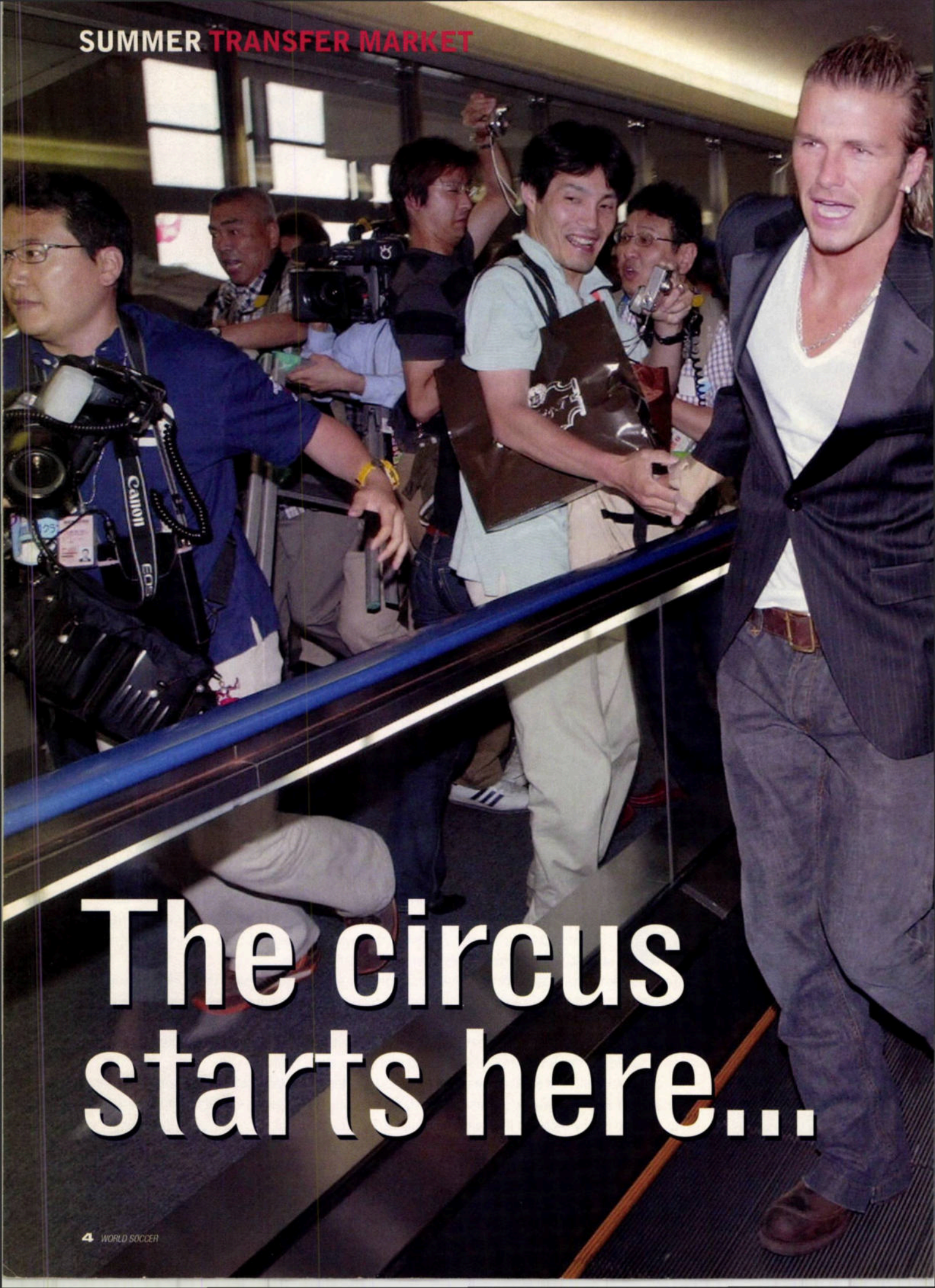
'Footballer leaves club after falling out with manager' is hardly the sort of story that rocks our world. But the spin put on the whole episode from all parties concerned should not go unchallenged. Beckham's determination to leave Manchester United at least meant that negotiations with Madrid were concluded swiftly – leaving us free to discuss the rest of the summer transfer market, as well as the implications of Madrid's sacking of coach Vicente Del Bosque and captain Fernando Hierro.

In fact, Ronaldinho, not Beckham, has been the most wanted player this summer. So it is the Brazilian (page 22), not Beckham, who is our main cover star this month. We've always valued talent over celebrity status – which is why Beckham has been the cover star only twice in nine years. There are those who proclaim gleefully that Beckham is a global icon for our times, a fusion of football, fashion and celebrity.

Ultimately, though, David Beckham is only a footballer. If we lose sight of that, we lose sight of everything.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

*** *SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER* **SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 52**



The circus starts here...

Sid Lowe in Madrid reports on the reaction to David Beckham's much-hyped transfer to the Spanish champions

TO THE shock and surprise of no one at all, Real Madrid's David Beckham denials proved to be utterly hollow. The club's unprecedented website communique was meaningless, while president Florentino Perez might want to double-check his English-Spanish dictionary. "Never, never, never, seven times never" isn't the accepted translation for 'si'.

It was a familiar tale, one that followed the pattern of Madrid's swoops for Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo. First, feed the story to trusted press contacts, thus sowing the seed of interest and encouraging the player to take the first step. Interest assured, next tap the player. Deny the story to the world, insisting on a 'gentlemanly' stance, only to encourage the player to go public. And finally, open negotiations with the player's club, who now see little choice but to sell.

As Perez said of Ronaldo and Zidane and now of Beckham: "The player is the key. Beckham wanted to come." After that, everything is easy – this time it was even easier yet.

Indeed, the only surprise was how willing to sell Manchester United were, and how quickly everything was concluded. Spanish fans and media were preparing for another long, hot, summer soap opera, but the deal was done in record time.

Alex Ferguson wanted shot, and United revealed their hand rather too readily, especially as Beckham's refusal to contemplate a move elsewhere left United unable to spark a bidding war and negotiating from a weak position.

Madrid couldn't believe their luck when they managed to land their sixth, and potentially most profitable, 'galactico' for just £25million. Sporting director Jorge Valdano said Beckham was "cheap".

Now Beckham mania has gripped Spain. Sports dailies *Marca* and *AS* dedicated 12 pages each to his signing, while football's most famous face beamed out from television sets and fans flocked to the club's training ground. It mattered little that he wasn't there yet.

Press intrusion concerns

However, there is also concern. The Spanish sports press and many of the players are fearful of the impact Beckham, his entourage and the media circus that follows him may have. His off-pitch lifestyle may encourage press intrusion into areas that are traditionally left alone; it simply isn't accepted practice for journalists to camp outside players' homes or follow their wives out shopping. With David and Victoria, that could all change.

Nor was the timing warmly received, even though Valdano insisted there was no choice as United are stock-market listed. Just five days before the League championship decider against Athletic Bilbao, the last thing Madrid's players wanted was to be besieged by British journalists. Captain Fernando Hierro remarked: "I don't want to talk about Beckham. I don't see how he can help us win the League."

Unhappier still was midfielder Guti, who's likely to be the

Into position...Beckham could play centrally

sacrificial lamb. He has already admitted that a mooted move to Arsenal or United would interest him, and he certainly won't be first choice at Madrid now: when Perez buys a superstar he expects them to play. Every week.

Beckham's marketing value is too great for him to stay on the bench, and Luis Figo is unlikely to leave until after next summer's European Championship. That means Beckham will almost certainly be granted the central midfield role he covets, alongside Claude Makelele, with Figo to the right and Zidane in a narrow left-sided role.

Many Spaniards see Beckham as a superb crosser of the ball and free-kick expert but little else. Now he is surrounded by such talent, though, it could allow the England captain to develop other areas of his game.

Del Bosque and Hierro go

Beckham will be walking into a changed Real Madrid after what the Spanish press have dubbed the Night of the Long Knives. A day after Madrid captured their 29th League title, Valdano announced that the club would not renew the contracts of coach Vicente Del Bosque or captain Fernando Hierro.

Never mind that the club had reiterated time and again that the pair would continue. So what if Perez had announced, live on Radio Nacional, that Del Bosque could extend his contract "whenever he wants". Or that Hierro had a verbal agreement to stay. Or even that the entire squad had given its support to the coach.

Madrid's Champions League semi-final defeat by Juventus tipped the balance against captain and manager, who were scapegoated for defeat. Perez also insisted that he wanted a coach with a more "technically and tactically modern" approach, and that Del Bosque was showing signs of running out of ideas.

But the decision smacks of the final act in a long-running power struggle, not least because Perez was reportedly furious when Hierro led his players in a mini-revolt after the club's championship-clinching victory.

Speculation grew about the motives behind the players' refusal to do a second lap of honour at the end of the 3-1 win over Bilbao or talk to the press, and their threat to not turn up at the club's official cathedral and town hall receptions the following day. Some believed it a reaction to the council's refusal to allow the players to clamber upon the Cibeles statue, as is tradition. But it now appears likely that Hierro, who expected his own contract to be renewed, was expressing his and the squad's disgust at Del Bosque's uncertain future.

For Perez it was the final straw. He is not prepared to allow control out of his hands – an attitude that saw off Fernando Redondo – and has long believed that Hierro's voice carries too much weight, while Del Bosque grants excessive freedom. Although Perez spoke of a "new cycle", seeing off Hierro and Del Bosque is a first step towards regaining control of a dressing-room that was increasingly unhappy with the way the club was run – and, led by Hierro, increasingly willing to voice that discontent. "A new form of communication between the squad and the club starts here," said Perez.

Many fans were disgusted, and the players, including Beckham, expressed their shock. But Perez claimed the decision was taken for the "good of the club" and, bizarrely, the "good of Hierro".

Del Bosque, meanwhile, appears the unlucky victim, one who has been extraordinarily dignified in his response, despite being sacked with a League title under his arm and having been consistently pilloried for defensive frailties that are as much a product of Perez's signings policy as the coach's shortcomings.

The new manager is Carlos Queiroz, Alex Ferguson's number two at Manchester United. Perez wants a coach with a low profile and calm demeanour who will keep the superstars happy. Queiroz, he says, fits the bill.

Whether the new coach will have any more new players is another matter. Despite Hierro's departure, Perez is showing no signs of buying a much-needed centre-back, even though rumours persist about Ajax's Cristian Chivu and Auxerre's Philippe Mexes.

Rumours also link Madrid to a swap deal involving Fernando Morientes joining Valencia in return for Roberto Ayala and Ruben Baraja. That would free up the number 9 shirt for Ronaldo and, in turn, the number 11 for Beckham. Plus, of course, there's the possibility of a bid for Ronaldinho, although that seems unlikely – Madrid's interest was primarily a negotiating tool to release Beckham.

'President Perez wants a coach with a low profile and calm demeanour. He says Queiroz [above] fits the bill'

'Del Bosque appears the unlucky victim, giving a very dignified response despite being sacked with a League title under his arm'

Over in Barcelona, too, there's fevered speculation and movement aplenty. Having missed out on Beckham, the club's new president, Joan Laporta, has turned to a number of other stars, including Ronaldinho and Arsenal's Thierry Henry. Neither seems at all likely to join, but others will.

Laporta has already signed Turkish goalkeeper Rustu Recber and is trying to secure the continued stay of Juan Pablo Sorin, Patrick Kluivert and Philip Cocu, having released Frank De Boer and manager Raddy Antic. The latter's replacement will be Dutchman Frank Rijkaard, who Laporta insists was first choice, despite claims that he missed out on Ronald Koeman and Guus Hiddink.

Silly season stuff

Post-election silly season reports also suggest Barça's new sporting director, Txiki Begiristain, is interested in Pablo Aimar (who Valencia would be willing to sell at around £18m), his team-mate Ayala and Real Sociedad's Xabi Alonso. Deportivo La Coruna striker Roy Makaay will be leaving and has also been linked to Barcelona, but is likely to join Bayern Munich instead.

Makaay's team-mate Albert Luque is another name being bandied about, as is Betis' Joaquin. The winger is yet to sign an extension, fuelling speculation and prompting Betis president Manuel Ruiz de Lopera to remark: "Either he signs or I'll send him out to Russia on loan." Joaquin replied: "Time for a woolly hat, then."

With the exception of the eternally action-packed Atletico Madrid, with whom Mikel Arteta, Ariel Ibagaza, Diego Simeone, Hakan Yakin and a host of others have been linked, Spain's other clubs have remained remarkably quiet on the transfer front. A depressed market and uncertainty over next year's television deal urges caution. Even so, Valencia, desperate for a goalscorer, are still battling to secure Claudio Lopez's return, while relegated Rayo Vallecano will sell Michel. Depor are potential bidders for him – and for Espanyol's out-of-contract midfielder Roger, who also interests Valencia and Betis.

Mallorca's Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o is another man in demand. Not surprising, really; after all, as Eto'o put it: "I might not be so handsome as David Beckham, but I'm a better footballer."

And the winner is... Jorge Valdano

FAR more significant than the departure of coach Vicente Del Bosque from Real Madrid was the ousting of Fernando Hierro. In getting rid of the club captain, sporting director Jorge Valdano ended a power game he launched while still a player at the Bernabeu back in the mid-1980s.

Madrid have been a notoriously difficult test for any coach because of the power wielded by a nucleus of senior players, who have their own direct line both to directors and, more controversially, fan groups among the hard-line 'Ultras'.

Valdano was one of the players, along with the likes of Emilio Butragueno, Manuel Sanchis (Hierro's predecessor as defensive linchpin and captain) and Mexican striker

Power broker...Valdano

Hugo Sanchez, whom then Real president Ramon Mendoza sought to bind to the club for life with over-valued, long-term contracts. Mendoza's purpose was understandable, the results disastrous. The players grew complacent, the trophies began to dry up, income stagnated and the wage bill and players' power spiralled out of control.

Over the past couple of seasons Hierro, Raul and Guti have taken their places in Madrid's multi-captaincy model, which has enormous undermining power. Del Bosque succeeded as coach for so long because he played their game. But losing out in the Champions League this season exposed his limitations on both the technical and diplomatic fronts.

Valdano had long wanted a new-era coach, a man more on his "football intellectual" level. He had little in common with Del Bosque. Also, Valdano felt that a traditional command and control system had to be re-established over the team. It was his good fortune that Del Bosque and Hierro came to the end of their contracts simultaneously.

Having solved the club's financial crisis by selling their central Madrid training ground land to the city council, Valdano and the current president, Florentino Perez, knew they dared not destabilise morale by announcing Del Bosque and Hierro's departures before the last crucial weeks of the season. But the temperature of the board meeting that followed the League title win was raised by a confrontation between Valdano and Hierro immediately after the decisive 3-1 victory over Bilbao.

Celebrations curtailed

The players wanted to defy council security concerns and celebrate in the fountains of the Plaza Cibeles; Perez and Valdano, repaying their political debt over the land deal, demanded that the squad undertook a town hall celebration. One thing led to another, the players cut short their celebrations in the Bernabeu and refused to talk to the media.

Further confusion attended the town hall reception, from which Ronaldo and Steve McManaman were unaccountably missing. "They overslept," said a curt club statement, "and have been submitted to normal club disciplinary procedures [i.e. been fined]."

Then came the board meeting and decisions about coach and captain. Del Bosque was not surprised. He knew what was coming. Indeed, it appears talks to prise away Carlos Queiroz from Manchester United were well advanced. Hierro was the more bitter, claiming he had a verbal agreement for a contract extension, though nothing in writing.

Raul put up verbal token resistance to Valdano and Perez. But he will be a winner as well, in the long term, as club captain out on his own. Also, of course, he has kept his prized number 7 shirt.

Game, set and match to Valdano. But there's no doubt now about who the fans will blame should it all end in tears next season.

Keir Radnedge

TOP TARGETS

● Cristian Chivu
Romania defender who played a major role in Ajax's Champions League progress last season. Linked with Real Madrid, Milan, Internazionale and Arsenal.

● Roy Makaay
Golden Shoe winner with 29 goals for Deportivo last season. Bayern Munich head the list of suitors.

● Claudio Lopez
Valencia are keen to re-sign their former winger, who is suing Lazio for five months of unpaid wages.

● Guti
Likely casualty of David Beckham's arrival in Madrid. Linked to Arsenal, Manchester United and Internazionale.

Expendable?...Guti

● Patrick Kluivert
Barcelona are desperate to cut his high wages, but such a move could trigger an escape clause – said to be £1.3m – in his contract.

DONE DEALS

David BECKHAM	M	Manchester United	Real Madrid
Kiki MUSAMPA	M	Malaga	Atletico Madrid
RUSTU Recber	G	Fenerbahce	Barcelona

History lessons for Beckham

'While holidaying in Spain, Laurie Cunningham walked into the club to ask if they would like to buy him. Madrid readily agreed'

DAVID BECKHAM the celebrity has landed – a novelty that has been greeted with much fanfare. But his nationality continues a century-long English connection with Real Madrid.

The first coach at the club, founded in 1902, was English school teacher Arthur Johnson, who also played as a goalkeeper, outside-right and right-half for Madrid.

More than 70 years later West Brom's England winger Laurie Cunningham walked into the club while holidaying in Spain and asked if Real would like to buy him. Madrid, remembering his UEFA Cup brilliance for Albion against Valencia, readily agreed.

Beckham may contemplate his continuance of the English connection, but he would do well to study the history of power politics at the club if his stay is to be successful. In the great days of the 1950s and early 1960s, Alfredo Di Stefano was The Man, even though never club captain. When Didi, Brazil's 1958 World Cup-winning general, arrived for his presentation at the Bernabeu a year later, Di Stefano is said to have shaken hands and smiled for the cameras while whispering: "They tell me you've come to replace me. Well, you're too old and you're not good enough." Didi lasted six months.

If Beckham is to last longer then never mind merchandise – the real business will be done in the dressing-room and out on the pitch. His success or failure will be easy to ascertain. Just watch the scorelines and count the trophies.

Keir Radnedge

Knockdown price...Cafu

How low

THE word is that this will be a quiet summer on the Italian transfer front with the action concentrated more on 'swaps' than on direct 'buys'. Given that the books of the 18 clubs which have just finished the Serie A season can be conservatively estimated to show combined losses of around £215 million, a spirit of fiscal austerity comes as no big surprise.

Needless to say, however, somewhere along the road between now and September, some of the bigger clubs will abandon the steep and lofty paths of righteousness and resort to the familiar old fix of a big-name, high-cost signing. In the meantime, though, one of those bigger clubs, newly-crowned European champions Milan, fittingly launched the first broadside of the transfer market when landing Brazil's World Cup-winning captain Cafu at a knockdown price.

Convinced that Roma were less than interested in renewing his contract, 33-year-old Cafu, much influenced by compatriot Leonardo, now on the Milan hiring staff, opted for a two-year contract worth £1.4m. In so doing, he was not only reneging on a prior agreement with Yokohama F Marinos but also settling for exactly half the salary on offer from the Japanese club.

In a sense, the Cafu transfer may have set the standards for the rest of the summer. In the new spirit of economic realism, players up and down Serie A have been settling for contracts that, while they reduce their salaries, still guarantee their immediate futures.

For example, 20 Lazio players have accepted extended contracts in which part of their salaries will be paid for via shares in the club. Explaining that decision, Lazio player spokesman Stefano Fiore recently told *World Soccer*: "If you take on board the crisis hitting football all over Europe, you have to acknowledge that players' wages have simply got out of control.

"Likewise, clubs can no longer spend more than they earn. If a club like Lazio were to fold, then frankly something is very seriously wrong with football."

Major cash boost

Fiore gave that opinion even before Lazio received a major boost in late June via an £80m cash injection partly from a consortium of banks led by Medicredito Centrale and partly (to the tune of £43m) from industrialist Vittore Merloni, builder Salvatore Ligresti and financier Stefano Ricucci. It is worth pointing out, however, that Lazio's situation remains difficult, with

can you go?

Cafu's cut-price move to Milan has set the standard for others to follow. Paddy Agnew reports

the club registering estimated debts of £150m at the end of April.

Lazio's excellent level of performance on the field this season, the prospect of Champions League revenue next season and hopes for a major upturn in the value of their shares are all reasons to be optimistic.

Significantly, on the evening that the Lazio capital increase was agreed by the club board, managing director Luca Baraldi was quick to thank his players, commenting: "Without their agreement, without the guarantee of a serious reduction in costs, no one would have backed our industrial plan. Lazio will now prove to be a trendsetter for Italian football."

Del Piero cutback

Trendsetter or not, it is true that famous names such as Alessandro Del Piero and Paolo Maldini have also accepted cutbacks. Del Piero is expected to sign a new agreement with Juventus through to 2008 that will see his salary reduced from £4.5m a year to £3m, while Maldini has apparently taken a 30 per cent cutback, Champions League win notwithstanding.

Another example of the new air blowing through the accounts offices of Serie A clubs is the contract negotiated by Milan's reserve goalkeeper Christian Abbiati, who has seen his earnings drop from an annual £1.3m to £1m in order for his contract to be extended through to 2008.

For all the climate of austerity, however, sports daily *Gazzetta Dello Sport* recently estimated that as many as 240 players in Serie A may be on the market this summer. It remains to be seen how the 'swap' system works out but it may be indicative that one of the first big proposed deals of the summer would see Lazio and Udinese work a deal whereby Lazio 'buy' Chilean David Pizarro, Dane Martin Jorgensen and Brazilian Alberto from Udinese in exchange for Lazio's Fabio Liverani, Argentinian Lucas Castroman and around £5.7m.

Perhaps the most intriguing market move of the year, however, involves little Perugia, the Umbrian club that launched such as Japanese Hidetoshi Nakata and South Korean Ahn Jung-hwan on their European careers. At the time of writing, Perugia are apparently about to 'sign' 30-year-old Libyan player Saad Ghaddafi, who just happens to be the son of Libyan leader Muammar Ghaddafi as well as captain of the national team and deputy president of the Libyan Football Federation.

For the time being, it is unclear as to just why and how this particular transfer will come about. Ghaddafi jnr is expected to go through pre-season training with Perugia before a final decision about his playing future with the club.

In the big league...Ghaddafi jnr tangles with Barça's Christanval

'Will Ghaddafi's father demand an explanation if his son is left on the Perugia bench?'

It is true that the Ghaddafi family have invested in Italian football in recent times, picking up a 7.5 per cent shareholding in Juventus as well as a 33 per cent stake in little Triestina, who narrowly missed out on promotion to Serie A this season. Could it be that this latest transfer comes within the realm of such investment? Will this be a transfer in which the player pays for the right to join a club? If Ghaddafi jnr does make it through pre-season training, then we could be in for some interesting moments at Perugia. Will the club have a security problem linked to their controversial signing, given that Libya is still viewed with distrust by US and international public opinion as a state that has in the past harboured terrorists?

How will Ghaddafi jnr react to being left on the bench, or worse still, sent to the stands? Will his father be tempted to pick up the phone and ask for an explanation from Perugia's sometimes intemperate owner, Luciano Gaucci? How will he react to a trademark Gaucci tirade by way of riposte? We may not have to wait long to find out.

DONE DEALS

CAFU	D	Roma	Milan
Lucas CASTROMAN	M	Lazio	Udinese
Olivier DACOURT	M	Leeds	Roma
Saad GHADDAFI	M	Al Ittihad	Perugia
Martin JORGENSEN	M	Udinese	Lazio
Giorgios KARAGOUNIS	M	Panathinaikos	Inter
Nicola LEGROTTAGLIE	D	Chievo	Juventus
Fabio LIVERANI	M	Lazio	Udinese
LUCIANO	D	Chievo	Internazionale
Fabrizio MICCOLI	F	Perugia	Juventus
David PIZARRO	M	Udinese	Lazio
Atsushi YANAGISAWA	F	Kashima Antlers	Sampdoria

TOP TARGETS

● Jaap Stam
The Dutch central defender has been linked with Milan, Juventus and Inter after refusing to take a pay cut at Lazio. But Lazio's new investors could persuade him to stay.

● Bernardo Corradi
Another Lazio refusenik who has been linked with Juventus after breaking into the Italian national side this past season.

● Adrian Mutu
The young Romanian striker is keen on Champions League football but may have to wait another season if Parma refuse to sell.

● Francesco Totti
Long seen as an eternal Roma player, but after Alessandro Nesta's move away from his beloved Lazio last summer, anything is possible. Linked with an audacious swap involving Rui Costa of Milan.

Arrivederci, Roma?...Totti

United ready to splash Beckham cash

Crossing delayed...Tim Howard is waiting on a work permit before moving to Manchester United

THE timing of David Beckham's move to Real Madrid – with more than 10 weeks left until the close of the transfer window – suggests that his agent, Tony Stephens, had been talking to the club for some weeks, probably months, before the deal was finalised.

The diverse nature of Beckham's personal endorsements means that any negotiations would have been complex and time-consuming. The player's acceptance of Madrid's demand for 50 per cent of his image rights – in return for an annual salary of around £4.5million – suggests he was desperate to join them.

Manchester United, aware the relationship between Beckham and manager Alex Ferguson had broken down, realised that they would have to sell. But any hopes they had of sparking a bidding war between Barcelona, Madrid and Milan were dashed when Beckham blanked Barça president-elect Joan Laporta.

Beckham had his heart set on Madrid – and their president, Florentino Perez, took ruthless advantage to force down the price in a buyer's market.

United received £17.9m as a guaranteed initial payment, plus eight payments of £900,000 dependent on Madrid qualifying for the Champions League group stage and quarter-finals over the next four seasons. This makes a possible maximum total of £25m.

Ferguson, who undoubtedly sanctioned Beckham's sale, now has considerable funds with which to reshape his team. Beckham's departure is also expected to result in a change in tactics by the manager, with a switch to a wingless 4-2-3-1 formation better suited to playing in Europe.

Crucial to this new system will be three attacking midfield players floating behind lone striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy. Ferguson already has Paul Scholes and Ryan Giggs, but was keen to add Ronaldinho to the mix. The Brazilian, despite his off-pitch indiscretions (see feature, page 22), was Ferguson's No 1 target, although Harry Kewell of Leeds and Blackburn's Damien Duff were also earmarked as alternatives in the new United line-up.

The arrival of either Kewell or Duff, both naturally left-footed, would lead to questions being raised about the future of Giggs, who continues to be the subject of admiring looks from Italy.

Further back, Ferguson plans to field Roy Keane alongside a second defensive midfielder. Both Nicky Butt and Phil Neville could fill the role, but Cameroon international Eric Djemba of Nantes (profiled in last month's *World Soccer*) has

Ronaldinho was the top target for manager Ferguson as he prepared for life without the England captain, writes Gavin Hamilton

been strongly linked with filling the position. Ferguson would dearly love to sign Arsenal's Patrick Vieira – the rebuttals from Highbury have been swift and firm, but as long as Vieira stalls on renewing his current contract, which expires next summer, the speculation will remain.

In defence, Ferguson knows his nucleus of young players (Rio Ferdinand, Wes Brown, Mickael Silvestre, John O'Shea) has

Arsenal target...Mexes

huge potential, but lacks experience. A steady head, such as Gareth Southgate, could be a good short-term solution.

Questions remain over two key players. Midfielder Juan Veron has hinted at a return to Italy, while goalkeeper Fabien Barthez insists he wants to stay despite concerns over his performances.

United were close to signing United States keeper Tim Howard from NY/NJ MetroStars, but the deal was delayed by a work permit application. Howard famously suffers from Tourette's Syndrome, though, in his case, the condition manifests itself in the form of tics such as clearing his throat, rather than inappropriate swearing.

Ferguson may yet sign a more high-profile keeper, though the need for one is more pressing at League runners-up Arsenal, following the free transfer of David Seaman to Manchester City. Arsenal have been linked with every promising and available keeper in Europe. Milan rejected an offer for Christian Abbiati, another target, Rustu Recber, opted for Barcelona, and Leeds accepted a cut-price offer of £3m from Aston Villa for Paul Robinson.

Arsenal's summer spending is likely to be severely restricted because of the costs of building the club's new stadium at Ashburton Grove. But manager Arsene Wenger needs a centre-back and forward to replace the ageing Martin Keown and Dennis Bergkamp. Sylvain Wiltord, Francis Jeffers and Jermaine Pennant may be sacrificed to make way for top targets Kewell and Philippe Mexes.

Of more concern to Wenger is the ongoing battle to get Robert Pires, linked with Internazionale and Valencia, and Vieira to commit to new contracts.

Newcastle, the biggest spenders of the past year, could conceivably outspend everybody else again. But they are more likely to make do with the controversial signing of Lee Bowyer on a free transfer, having so far failed to agree a price with Feyenoord for Australian wing-back Brett Emerton. Newcastle were preparing to sell Peruvian Nolberto Solano, but they were unlikely to be successful in their pursuit of Ronaldinho, having offered PSG Laurent Robert in part-exchange.

The other Champions League qualifiers, Chelsea, appear set for a quiet summer, perhaps encouraged by last season's strong performance on a low transfer budget. Their biggest concern is to ensure defender William Gallas signs a new contract, and avoid losing him on a free transfer next year.

Despite missing out on the Champions League, Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier was reported to have presented his board with a summer signings wish list, said to contain up to 20 names. Chief among them were Duff and Djibril Cisse. However, with Blackburn and Auxerre both refusing to countenance the sale of their biggest assets, Houllier will probably have to look elsewhere.

Liverpool's priority is to inject more creativity into midfield – hence the links to David Pizarro (Udinese), Yildiray Basturk (Leverkusen), Hakan Yakin (Basle) and Johan Micoud (Werder Bremen).

They were also in the running to sign Cisse's team-mate Jean-Alain Boumsong, but may wait until he becomes available on a free transfer next year. Houllier, however, has signed long-term target Steve Finnan, the Ireland defender, from Fulham.

The biggest fee paid so far by an English club has been the £6.25m (rising to £8.25m) paid by Tottenham for FC Porto striker Helder Postiga (profile, page 55). Spurs were also still pursuing their interest in Freddie Kanoute, though West Ham, keen to recoup around £10m from sales following relegation, were holding out for a higher fee.

Blackburn were also busy, bringing in defender Lorenzo Amoruso from Rangers and preparing to sell midfielder David Dunn to Birmingham. At promoted Portsmouth, manager Harry Redknapp is already displaying his talent for buying and selling, bringing in defenders Boris Zivkovic and Dejan Stefanovic, while also trying to persuade 37-year-old Teddy Sheringham to move to the south coast.

'Beckham's departure is likely to lead Ferguson to switch to a wingless 4-2-3-1 formation better suited to playing in Europe'

TOP TARGETS

● Harry Kewell
With one year left on his Leeds contract, the Australian forward was being eyed by Arsenal, Man United and Barcelona. London is the favoured destination for Kewell and his soap actress wife.

● Damien Duff
Blackburn's £15m price tag may deter Liverpool's interest in the Irish winger, but Manchester United may be more persistent.

● Philippe Mexes
One of Europe's most coveted young players. Recently hired Bosman lawyer Jean-Louis Dupont to extricate him from a contract trap at Auxerre. Likely result: a move to Arsenal, Real Madrid or Manchester United.

● Robert Pires
Yet to sign a new contract with Arsenal, and linked with Valencia (as bait in a possible swap with keeper Santiago Canizares) and Inter ("a big honour").

Highbury bound?...Kewell

● Djibril Cisse
Liverpool's top summer target but Auxerre boss Guy Roux will fight to keep his star protege for another season at least.

DONE DEALS

Marco AMBROSIO	G	Chievo	Chelsea
Patrik BERGER	M	Liverpool	Portsmouth
Lee BOWYER	M	Out of contract	Newcastle
Steve FINNAN	D	Fulham	Liverpool
Stelios GIANNAKOPOULOS	M	Olympiakos	Bolton
HELDER POSTIGA	F	FC Porto	Tottenham
Matt HOLLAND	M	Ipswich	Charlton
Tim HOWARD	G	NY/NJ MetroStars	Man United
Ricardo SCIMECA	D	Nottingham Forest	Leicester
David SEAMAN	G	Arsenal	Man City
Philippe SENDEROS	D	Servette	Arsenal
Dejan STEFANOVIC	D	Vitesse Arnhem	Portsmouth
Michael TARNAT	D	Bayern Munich	Man City
Boris ZIVKOVIC	D	Bayer Leverkusen	Portsmouth

Exodus resumes

The League's best players continue to head for the departure lounge

WOULD the last player leaving France please turn out the lights? You really feel tempted to say this as player after player announced that he wants to depart, preferably for England.

After Lyon clinched a second successive League title, a point ahead of Monaco, you could be forgiven for thinking that the floodgates were about to open, such was the muttering from players about leaving the newly-crowned champions.

One of Lyon's refuseniks was 30-year-old goalkeeper Gregory Coupet, seven years with the club, who flew into a paddy because Jean-Michel Aulas, the dominating president, refused to extend for two years a contract that already ran until 2006.

He added bitterly that this was no way to treat a loyal servant who had wanted to spend the rest of his working life at Lyon, first as a player, then as a coach.

The situation of striker Sidney Govou was somewhat different. He was perfectly happy at Lyon, he said, but reading between the lines of Aulas' pronouncements, it looked as if the club were ready to sell him if they could get the right price. Fine, added Govou, in that case he would go.

The matter was complicated by the arrival of Shabani Nonda from Monaco and by the fact that Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson had terminated his contract but could well be asked to come back again.

Then there is Guy Roux's Auxerre, recent winners of the French Cup with a narrow 2-1 victory over Paris Saint-Germain. Jean-Alain Boumsong, the powerful centre-back and scorer of the last-minute winner, said he would like to leave, preferably for Liverpool. Fellow central defender Philippe Mexes, one of the country's most promising young players and long linked with Arsenal, has been enmeshed in rancorous negotiations with Auxerre.

Liverpool is also the preferred destination for gifted young Auxerre forward Djibril Cisse, scorer of the club's other Cup Final goal. His contract runs until 2007, and Roux announced that he meant to make Cisse stick to it. The striker then announced that he didn't want a stand-off with the coach but he had been with the club seven years, he'd done his stuff for Roux and with his 22nd birthday coming up felt it was high time to move on.

Highly-rated Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba has joined Marseille from Guingamp, while down the coast at Monaco, Ludovic Giuly, Jerome Rothen and Rafael Marquez are preparing to be sold.

Andre Duclos

At odds with Lyon...Gregory Coupet

TOP TARGETS

● Petr Cech
The giant Czech keeper enjoyed a remarkable first season with Rennes after moving from Sparta Prague last summer. Manchester United, Arsenal and Barcelona may see the 21-year-old as the solution to their goalkeeping problems.

● Olivier Kapo
Unlike his Auxerre team-mates Djibril Cisse and Philippe Mexes, the young French international attacking midfielder has been given the green light to leave by manager Guy Roux. PSG and representatives from the Premiership and Spain are watching the situation closely, though the £11.5million price tag may be excessive.

● Benoit Pedretti
After breaking into the France side last season, the young Sochaux defensive midfielder has PSG, Lyon and Marseille on his trail. However, a move to the Premiership is not out of the question. Rated in the £6m bracket.

● Pauleta
Bordeaux president Jean-Louis Triaud says he hopes to offer the prolific Portugal striker a new contract. But PSG, Marseille, Lyon and FC Porto are in hot pursuit.

Wanted man...Pauleta

Marked for greatness...Michael Essien

Essien opts for Paris

EXCITING young African midfield prospect Michael Essien will be hoping to avoid the curse of the Ghanaian boy wonder following his move to Paris Saint-Germain from Bastia.

Despite claiming world junior titles in 1991 and 1995, Ghana's recent football history is littered with tales of squandered potential, of brilliant youngsters who then spectacularly faded from view. Midfielder Daniel Addo, attacker Abu Iddrisu and most notably striker Nii Lamptey – who was once anointed by Pele as his successor – are just a few examples of the sad phenomenon. However, given his

outstanding skills and unassuming character, the odds are that the 20-year-old Essien will not experience the same fate.

Similar in style to Arsenal's Patrick Vieira, Essien has proved over the past two years with Corsican club Bastia that he is a special talent. Although nominally a defensive midfielder of power, athleticism and boundless stamina, he is much more than a workhorse, a player whose sole responsibility is to destroy.

Essien's excellent distribution and surging runs with the ball can switch defence into attack in an instant. His finishing ability was good enough to bring him a half-dozen goals last season, including a magnificent long-range effort that earned his team a draw with Lille.

"Michael can go all the way to the top," predicts former Bastia coach Robert Nouzaret. "With his technical and physical qualities, he has every chance of real success in football, of becoming a world-class player."

Fan club

The Essien fan club is attracting new members by the score. French football writers voted him into their Team of the Season for 2002-03, while would-be buyers have been bombarding his agent with offers this summer.

No wonder PSG were joined by the likes of Liverpool, Everton, Manchester City, Tottenham, Marseille and Lyon in being entranced.

In Essien, they saw an extraordinarily gifted young player and one they could pick up for a bargain £4million from a financially-embarrassed Bastia.

A member of the Ghana side that took the runners-up spot behind Argentina at the World Youth Cup in 2001, Essien also seems to have his feet firmly on the ground, making it clear he does not regard himself as the finished article.

"I think I can improve in all areas," says Essien, who joined Bastia in 1999 from the Liberty Professionals club in his homeland.

"I'm at an early stage in my career and there's lots to work on. I especially want to be more consistent and be better at taking goalscoring chances. I want to make progress step by step.

"I love my role as a holding midfielder. You have to win the ball, cover a maximum amount of ground in front of the defence and, from time to time, you can launch attacks. It's a position where you are involved constantly, where you have to be up to speed for the whole 90 minutes."

Nick Bidwell

Bayern time

The Bundesliga champions seek extra firepower

ALTHOUGH Giovane Elber, Claudio Pizarro and Roque Santa Cruz are all fine strikers, German champions Bayern Munich have set their hearts on another top-class marksman. Deportivo La Coruna's Dutch front-man Roy Makaay is their No 1 target.

With Mehmet Scholl and Sebastian Deisler often injured, a creative midfielder or deep-lying attacker might be useful too.

Bayern sealed a deal several months ago for River Plate defender Martin Demichelis, who will join them at the end of the Argentinian season.

Despite qualifying for the Champions League, Stuttgart's already weak financial position means coach-general manager Felix Magath only has a derisory £3.8million for reinforcements. The priorities are a left-sided wing-back, a defensive midfielder and a back-up striker.

Should Marcio Amoroso quit Borussia Dortmund, another top-ranking overseas goal-getter will be required. A utility man able to operate in a variety of defensive and midfield positions is a must now that Jorg Heinrich has been sold to Koln and skipper Stefan Reuter is 36.

Despite failing in their attempt to bring in Leverkusen's Germany striker, Oliver Neuville, Hamburg's search goes on for a mobile, attacking all-rounder. More strength in depth is needed in central defence and another tricky right-sided midfielder will have to be found if their highly-rated Iranian Mehdi Mahdavikia is lured away.

Elsewhere, the resurrection of Fredi Bobic's career continues with a move to Hertha Berlin from Hannover, who have signed Thomas Christiansen from Bochum.

Keeper Simon Jentzsch, linked earlier this season with Arsenal, has decided to stay in Germany, exchanging the colours of 1860 Munich for those of Wolfsburg.

Promoted Koln stole a march on many Bundesliga clubs by acquiring prolific Ukrainian goalscorer Andrii Voronin from Mainz.

Nick Bidwell

TOP TARGETS

● Marcio Amoroso
The Brazilian striker clashed constantly with Borussia Dortmund coach Matthias Sammer last season and announced his determination to leave the Ruhr club in a hard-hitting magazine interview. His agent is touting him in Spain and Italy, where he used to star for Parma.

● Lucio
While the always-adventurous Brazilian central defender only extended his contract with Bayer Leverkusen a few months ago, the fact that his club will not be in Europe next season has forced budget cuts. He will go if an offer of at least £12-15million is made by a Serie A or Liga admirer, with Roma favourites to sign him.

● Bernd Schneider
For reasons best known to Bayer Leverkusen, the fee on the talented Germany midfielder's head is a mere £3.9m. Expect a rush of Bundesliga and foreign bidders.

● Tomas Ujfalusi
A number of Italian clubs, including Champions League victors Milan, are on the case of Hamburg's much-improved Czech centre-back. His club are said to be resigned to losing him.

Roma target...Lucio

DONE DEALS – France & Germany

Fredi BOBIC	F	Hannover	Hertha Berlin
Ricardo CABANAS	M	Grasshopper	Guingamp
Thomas CHRISTIANSEN	F	Bochum	Hannover
Martin DEMICHELIS	D	River Plate	Bayern Munich
Didier DROGBA	F	Guingamp	Marseille
Michael ESSIEN	M	Bastia	Paris Saint-Germain
Jorg HEINRICH	M	Borussia Dortmund	Koln
Simon JENTZSCH	G	1860 Munich	Wolfsburg
Joonas KOLKKA	M	Panathinaikos	Monchengladbach
Teddy LUCIC	D	AIK Stockholm	Bayer Leverkusen
Martin MAX	F	1860 Munich	Hansa Rostock
Shabani NONDA	F	Monaco	Lyon
Pascal OJIGWE	D	Bayer Leverkusen	Monchengladbach
Imre SZABICS	F	Sturm Graz	Stuttgart
Razundara TJIKUZU	D	Werder Bremen	Hansa Rostock
Stepan VACHOUSEK	M	Slavia Prague	Marseille
Andrii VORONIN	F	Mainz	Koln
Jurica VRANJES	M	Bayer Leverkusen	Stuttgart

The month in pictures

● 19/05/03...Ronald Koeman is linked with a return to Barcelona

● 20/05/03...David O'Leary is presented as the new manager of Aston Villa

● 21/05/03...After beating Celtic in Seville Porto join a select group of clubs who have won all three European club cups

● 22/05/03...David Beckham breaks his thumb in England's 2-1 friendly victory over South Africa in Durban

Q&A Deco

Porto's Brazilian playmaker tells Keir Radnedge about life in his adopted Portugal

DECO is not exactly J K Rowling. But his autobiography has proved a publishing sensation in Portugal, shooting to almost Harry Potter-type pre-eminence at the top of the best-selling lists only three days after publication.

That is not bad, to say the least, for a player whose name is guaranteed to set the hackles rising in all quarters of Lisbon. Opinions may soften next year when Portugal, with Deco in midfield, host the European Championship. But the Brazil-born linchpin of FC Porto will find the truce only temporary.

Success is already his at both national and international level after his energy and skill guided Porto to the treble of domestic League and Cup plus UEFA Cup. Whispers were rife in Seville, before the victory over Celtic, that Deco would be on the move this summer. They have subsided, not least because of coach Jose Mourinho's decision to stick with the Dragons for at least another year.

A crack at the Champions League with Porto is appealing to both player and coach. Deco's contract still has three seasons to run, in any case, so he need not rush a decision. There could be more advantageous moments.

For the time being, and with his controversial Portuguese citizenship secured only this year, Deco is happy to play the loyalty card.

WORLD SOCCER: After all the talk about a move to Italy or Spain, how committed are you to Portuguese football?

DECO: When I took up my citizenship here it was because I identify personally with Portugal the way I used to with Brazil. I have played almost all my senior career here, my family and friends are here – and Porto have provided the foundation for all that. They have always treated me well, and I have always said I will never leave under a cloud.

But selling you could be very profitable for Porto.

Yes, because we have done so well, and with all due modesty I must be one of the stars of the championship. But this is down to the fact that I have been virtually injury-free, so I have played a lot of games, and also because I work much harder out on the pitch now. I have to thank our old coach, Fernando Santos, for that.

You were booked 15 times in the League, almost one every two matches. Are you a dirty player?

Certainly not, but things go on in the Portuguese League that are absurd. When a player claims he's been fouled Portuguese referees stop the game and show him the yellow card for dissent. At international level the referee just ignores you. I understand that you can't go over the top with protests. But to stop a game to penalise a player who is just expressing a normal opinion is nonsense.

Did you expect such a tight UEFA Cup Final against Celtic?

Our first priority was winning the League because we hadn't done it for three years – too long for this club. Although we wanted to do well in the UEFA Cup we didn't think beyond the quarter-finals. Once we got to Seville for the Final we believed we were a better team than Celtic, partly because of the evidence the previous season. But there are always risks in a one-off match. Happily, we came through.

> 'All the federation asked for was written confirmation I was available for selection. Citizenship was a different thing, a personal matter'

Is that significant as far as the next Champions League is concerned?

Certainly, because of the confidence factor. Once you reach the last eight of the UEFA Cup you mix with the likes of Celtic, Panathinaikos and Lazio, which are big clubs on the international stage and have a Champions League pedigree.

Settled in...Deco has carved a niche at Porto

The former Sporting Lisbon coach, Laszlo Boloni, said the Portuguese League is in the European third division. Do you agree?

No. The record and power of the Big Three – Porto, Benfica and Sporting – stands comparison with the greatest clubs anywhere in Europe. We play good football here. The Spanish League is the best but I've watched some awful games from Italy. If Portuguese football weren't competitive domestically there's no way one of its clubs could win the UEFA Cup.

Did you take up Portuguese citizenship at the request of the federation?

No. The only thing the federation asked for was written confirmation that I was available for selection. Citizenship was a different issue entirely, a personal matter. I have lived here for six years, and I wanted to commit myself to the country. If I were transferred to a foreign club, I would still insist on coming back to play for Portugal. I adore Brazil but when I go back there it's only like going on holiday now. Portugal is home.

● 28/05/03...Milan celebrate beating Juventus in the Champions League Final

● 29/05/03...PSV party after clinching the Dutch League following a 0-0 draw at Groningen

● 31/05/03...Jean-Alain Boumsong scores the winning goal for Auxerre in the French Cup Final

Makaay bags ESM Golden Shoe

ROY MAKAAY, Deportivo La Coruna's Dutch striker, is the winner of the 2002-03 ESM Golden Shoe, the prize for Europe's leading striker awarded by the European Sports Magazines (ESM) group, in association with UEFA.

Makaay was the clear winner ahead of PSV's Mateja Kezman, scoring 29 League goals for his club, which translated into 58 points when the league factor was taken into account.

The Dutchman will be presented with his award at the UEFA Gala in Monaco at the end of August.

Hot shot...Roy Makaay

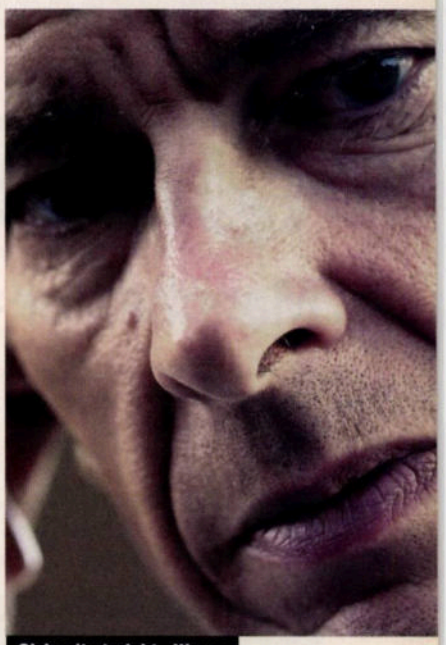
FINAL STANDINGS

Pos	Name	Club	Goals	Factor	Pts
1	Roy Makaay	Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)	29	2	58
2	Mateja Kezman	PSV Eindhoven (Hol)	35	1.5	52.5
3	Shabani Nonda	Monaco (Fra)	26	2	52
4	Ruud Van Nistelrooy	Manchester United (Eng)	25	2	50
5	Thierry Henry	Arsenal (Eng)	24	2	48
	Christian Vieri	Internazionale (Ita)	24	2	48
7	James Beattie	Southampton (Eng)	23	2	46
	Nihat Kahveci	Real Sociedad (Spa)	23	2	46
	Pauleta	Bordeaux (Fra)	23	2	46
	Ronaldo	Real Madrid (Spa)	23	2	46
11	Thomas Christiansen	Bochum (Ger)	21	2	42
	Giovane Elber	Bayern Munich (Ger)	21	2	42
	Henrik Larsson	Celtic (Sco)	28	1.5	42
	Pierre Van Hooijdonk	Feyenoord (Hol)	28	1.5	42
15	Darko Kovacevic	Real Sociedad (Spa)	20	2	40
	Mark Viduka	Leeds (Eng)	20	2	40
17	Richard Nunez	Grasshopper (Swi)	26	1.5	39
18	Michael Owen	Liverpool (Eng)	19	2	38
19	Andrei Krolov	Tallinna VMK (Est)	37	1	37
20	Arman Karamian	Pyunik (Arm)	36	1	36
	Adrian Mutu	Parma (Ita)	18	2	36
	Okan Yilmaz	Bursaspor (Tur)	24	1.5	36
	Stanko Svitlica	Legia Warsaw (Pol)	24	1.5	36
24	Didier Drogba	Guingamp (Fra)	17	2	34
	Filippo Inzaghi	Milan (Ita)	17	2	34
	Alan Shearer	Newcastle (Eng)	17	2	34
27	Marios Neophytou	Anorthosis (Cyp)	33	1	33
	Cedric Roussel	Mons (Blg)	22	1.5	33
	Maxim Shatskikh	Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr)	22	1.5	33
	Wesley Sonck	Genk (Blg)	22	1.5	33
	Maciej Zurawski	Wisla Krakow (Pol)	22	1.5	33
32	Ailton	Werder Bremen (Ger)	16	2	32
	Alessandro Del Piero	Juventus (Ita)	16	2	32
	Patrick Kluivert	Barcelona (Spa)	16	2	32
	Rainer Rauffmann	Omonia Nicosia (Cyp)	32	1	32
	Raul	Real Madrid (Spa)	16	2	32
37	Olexiy Bielyk	Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)	21	1.5	31.5
	Marcin Kuzba	Wisla Krakow (Pol)	21	1.5	31.5
	Axel Lawaree	Bregenz (Aut)	21	1.5	31.5
	Andrzej Niedzielan	Gornik Zabrze (Pol)	21	1.5	31.5
41	Adriano	Parma (Ita)	15	2	30
	Claudio Lopez	Lazio (Ita)	15	2	30
	Fernando	Betis (Spa)	15	2	30
	Christian Gimenez	Basle (Swi)	20	1.5	30
	Javi Guerrero	Racing Santander (Spa)	15	2	30
	Nenad Jestrovic	Anderlecht (Blg)	20	1.5	30
	Dirk Kuijt	Utrecht (Hol)	20	1.5	30
	Kevin Kuranyi	Stuttgart (Ger)	15	2	30
	Claudio Pizarro	Bayern Munich (Ger)	15	2	30
	Julio Hernan Rossi	Basle (Swi)	20	1.5	30

Notes & quotes

"If I left now, it would be as if I was walking away from my responsibilities."

Sepp Blatter contemplates a third term as FIFA president. He had previously said he would not go beyond two terms.



Giving it straight...Wenger

"Those who think I'm going to quit Arsenal do not know me well enough."

Arsene Wenger vows to stay at Highbury until his contract expires in 2006.

"I suffered but made it in the end. I didn't need to hang on to any passing lorries."

Montpellier coach Gerard Bernardet keeps his promise to cycle 400km to Lourdes if his club avoided relegation.

"It will not be a full-strength Brazil at the Confederations Cup. Our team in France will be a laboratory for the future."

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira on the eve of the failed experiments at the FIFA tournament.

The month in pictures

● 01/06/03...Real Sociedad's Spanish title ambitions are hit by a 1-1 draw with Valencia

● 02/06/03...Emiliano Bonazzoli celebrates the winning goal as Reggina beat Atalanta 2-1 in a play-off to stay in Serie A

● 07/06/03...Scotland and Germany draw 1-1 in their Euro 2004 qualifier at Hampden Park

● 07/06/03...Ireland record a controversial victory over Albania in Dublin

GLOBAL VIEW

Paul Gardner

Manchester – so much to answer for

HOW absolutely right and proper that after 120 increasingly banal and boring minutes, the European Champions League Final in Manchester should be won by a cheating goalkeeper. Yes sir, that's modern soccer for you.

I can't believe that referee Markus Merk failed to notice that Milan's Dida had come well off his line to save Marcelo Zalayeta's shot, and then came even further out to make the crucial save from Paolo Montero. Of course, Merk, or his assistant, *had* to notice it. So I can only assume that, like all of us, they wanted to get this dreary travesty finished as quickly as possible. No retakes, trophy to Milan.

What a bore. Yet there are those who tell me it was a fascinating game. I have looked up 'fascinating' in my dictionary and – yes, well, maybe this is what they mean: to attract or hold motionless by inspiring terror.

But they don't mean that. They mean intriguing. "An intriguing chess match" was one version. Fine – except that this was supposed to be a football match. And football, like all athletic sports, needs action and excitement.

To squeeze the very life out of a sport by tactical sophistry is not an achievement for which I would award any medals. Yes, I can admire the technical skill of Italian defenders. I just don't enjoy watching the game they produce.

Poor Montero, the last victim of this tiresome game, could not care less about my views. He made it clear before the Final: "It's pointless to talk about a beautiful or an ugly game. I'm only interested in lifting that trophy."

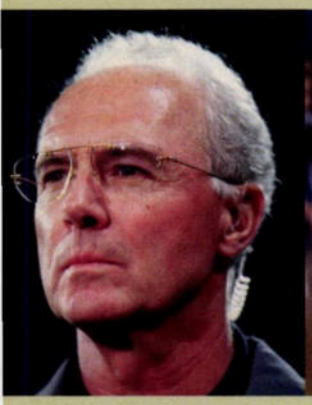
Can't really argue with that either. Winning is all. So where does my problem lie? With the coaches and the tactics they use? How easy – and satisfying – it would be to say yes to that. There is certainly some truth in it, but it doesn't get to the root of the matter.

That lies within the sport itself. Provided they respect the rules, a coach and his players are entitled to play football – or any sport, for that matter – any way they like. What they will do, naturally, is to play it the way they feel is most likely to result in a win. If the sport's traditions and history say the way to win is to play an open, attacking game, that's what they will do.

Save and sound...Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon prolongs the agony in the Champions League Final

Defending gets easier and easier

But football's recent history says something very different. In England, after the offside rule change in 1925, the average number of goals per game rarely fell below three. But in the 1970s it never reached three and was usually closer to 2.5.



● 10/06/03...Franz Beckenbauer says that Germany "can't play football"

● 11/06/03...Martin Djetou admits he may leave Fulham

● 11/06/03...Greece follow up their defeat of Spain with a 1-0 win over Ukraine to go top of their Euro 2004 qualifying group

The paralysing grip of cynical defensive soccer was taking hold. The balance between attack and defence, which all sports need, had tilted decisively towards the defenders. And nothing was done about it. It was accepted that goal-scoring should get more difficult, defending easier and easier.

Defenders were very much in charge. Worse, they were aided and abetted by refereeing that allowed them to get away with routine fouling. To complain about the shift in the beautiful game was to be derided and reminded that, in Claudio Gentile's words: "Football is not a sport for ballerinas."

There is nothing secret or mysterious about any of this. It is clear that as players get fitter and stronger, they cover more ground; the forwards are able to track back, the defenders rampage forward. New tactical ideas can use that fitness to invoke tight marking all over the field; and such new tactics invariably feature water-tight defence as their basis. Goalkeepers are bigger and better trained, while the size of the goal has remained unaltered.

By the mid-1980s even the complacent FIFA was alarmed, and rule changes began to appear designed to limit the damage that lawless defenders were doing. The offside rule was changed, tackling from behind was banned, sort of, keepers were forbidden to handle back passes.

Piecemeal remedies for a problem that cried out for something more fundamental. It has proved mighty difficult to make those rule changes effective. The first three Confederations Cup games that I watched in June featured two dreadful offside calls, and one dangerous tackle from behind that went unpunished by a card.

Referees, apparently, need to be constantly reminded of their duties, not so much to the rules of the game as to the game itself. All three examples I've just given repeated the commonest of all referee errors – that of favouring the defence. The one rule change that referees can be guaranteed to enforce is the mandatory caution for diving. Could that be because the offenders are usually attacking players?

Clamp down on cheating

There is a massive and crystal clear lesson in all of that. Football has to find a way to make defending more difficult. The first step is also clear. Stop defenders deliberately and systematically flouting the rules of the game.

No rule changes are needed. Stop defenders tackling from behind. Stop them leading with the elbow when challenging for headers. Stop them holding and grabbing shirts. These are all clearly defined in the rules as infractions, but they are a common feature of every game. They are all forms of cheating.

Yet referees let far too many of these offences go and certainly do not punish them severely enough under the 'persistent infringement' rule.

The first trick then (before we get round to the appetising task of making life more difficult for goalkeepers) is to get referees to correct their pro-defence bias.

I know I forgave Markus Merk at the beginning of this column, but, really, seriously folks, how *could* he be so blind? Or so pro-defence?

'Football has to find a way to stop defenders deliberately and systematically flouting the rules of the game'

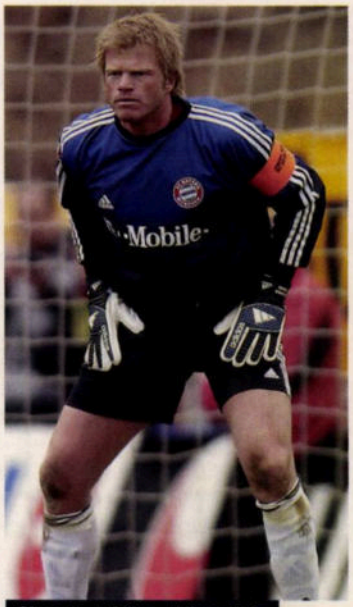
Notes & quotes

"I've had enough. I've been persecuted for too long."

Ecuadorean referee Byron Moreno, the man in charge of the controversial Italy-South Korea game at World Cup 2002, announces his retirement.

"I lost control of my life. For a moment I thought of quitting football."

Bayern Munich and Germany keeper Oliver Kahn on the fallout from his affair and marriage break-up.



Close to quitting...Oliver Kahn

"Norwegian football is sad and insipid."

Denmark coach Morten Olsen wields the knife before his team's Euro 2004 qualifier with their Scandinavian rivals. Denmark won 1-0.

"I'm tired of hearing Lyon described as a great club after winning just two French League titles. On the international stage, they are nothing."

Ex-Marseille owner Bernard Tapie shows his preference for the achievements of his old club.

The month in pictures

● 11/06/03...Denmark stay top of their Euro 2004 qualifying group following a 2-0 win over Luxembourg

● 11/06/03...Spain stumble again, held 0-0 by Northern Ireland, as Greece top Euro 2004 qualifying Group 6

● 11/06/03...Dejan Savicevic quits as coach of Serbia after losing to Azerbaijan

● 12/06/03...Turkey forward Hasan Sas is set to stay with Galatasaray

Son of God

Maradona junior is set to follow in his father's footsteps at Napoli

THE DAY Diego Maradona came face to face with Diego Maradona is one neither of them will forget in a hurry. Maradona, one of the greatest footballers in history, Argentina's World Cup-winning skipper and inspiration in 1986, remains a legend at Napoli, whom he led to Serie A and UEFA Cup victories in the late 1980s.

But for one footballer, he is more than all that. Diego Maradona is also a Napoli youth player who was born 16 years ago after the superstar's fling with a local girl, Cristiana Sinagra. For years Maradona senior denied the affair, and Cristiana had to bring a paternity suit to secure maintenance.

Young Maradona has a talent for football which has brought him up through the Napoli youth ranks into the Italian national junior squad and provoked interest from clubs in Scotland and England. But father and son had never met – until Maradona senior paid a flying visit to Italy for a golf holiday. Young Diego knew it was now or never. He said: "When I learned from the newspapers that he was coming to Italy to visit an old friend, I decided I had to try to meet him."

Easier said than done. He said: "I found out he was going to be at Fiuggi, which is only around 100km from my home. I talked it over with my mother and grandparents and they understood, so my two uncles drove me there."

Getting there was one thing, getting in was another since Maradona was staying at an exclusive country club with extra security for his benefit. But the son has his father's nerve. "I am a good, streetwise Neapolitan boy," he said. "I told the security people I was interested in golf lessons and asked if I could have a look at the greens. I timed it just right so I knew my father would be there and I would get the chance to meet him face to face."

Maradona senior was not amused at being ambushed. Junior said: "At first he was furious. He thought I was some kid autograph hunter come to pester him. He grabbed hold of a golf club and started whirling it in the air as if he was going to hit me with it. I tried to tell him who I was but the people with him bundled him into one of those golf buggies and started to drive him away.

"I was so disappointed. I thought there was nothing for it but to turn around and go home. Then I heard him call after me – and all of a sudden I was face to face with my father."

Happy reunion

It seems, for Maradona, the only publicity worse than meeting Diego junior could have been turning his back on him. The reunion sounded the stuff of talk shows. "I think he knew I would always be looking for him and that one day, sooner or later, we would meet. It was wonderful," said the youngster. "We agreed to meet again, maybe in Buenos Aires or Cuba [where his dad has spent much time recently], or maybe even when he comes back to Italy. But it will be private."

Young Maradona has followed his father's career, apparently without rancour.

Like father...

Like son...Maradona snr in his teens (inset) and Diego jnr

'My father knew I would always be looking for him and that one day, sooner or later, we would meet'

He is also developing his own fledgling career at Napoli but without kidding himself about comparisons, saying: "My father is left-footed and I'm right-footed. He was an attacker and I am only an attacking midfielder. But it's more than that. We are on different planets in football terms.

"Maradona was, and remains, the greatest of all time. Two goals I can watch again and again on video: a free-kick for Napoli against Juventus and the fantastic slalom through the England defence at the 1986 World Cup finals.

"Is the name a problem? Only that I feel I have to work twice as hard as my team-mates because it is my dream to be a professional footballer and play for Napoli, as my father did." And his heroes? "Easy...Alex Del Piero and David Beckham."

Keir Radnedge

● 12/06/03...Kaiserslautern are forced to sell their Fritz-Walter-Stadion to clear debts and secure a professional licence for next season

● 13/06/03...Pavel Nedved of Juventus is named Czech Player of the Year

● 15/06/03...Real Madrid move a step closer to the Spanish League title after a 4-0 win over city rivals Atletico in the penultimate round of the campaign

Keir Radnedge

MEDIAWATCH

News and views from the world's press

Injury-time blues

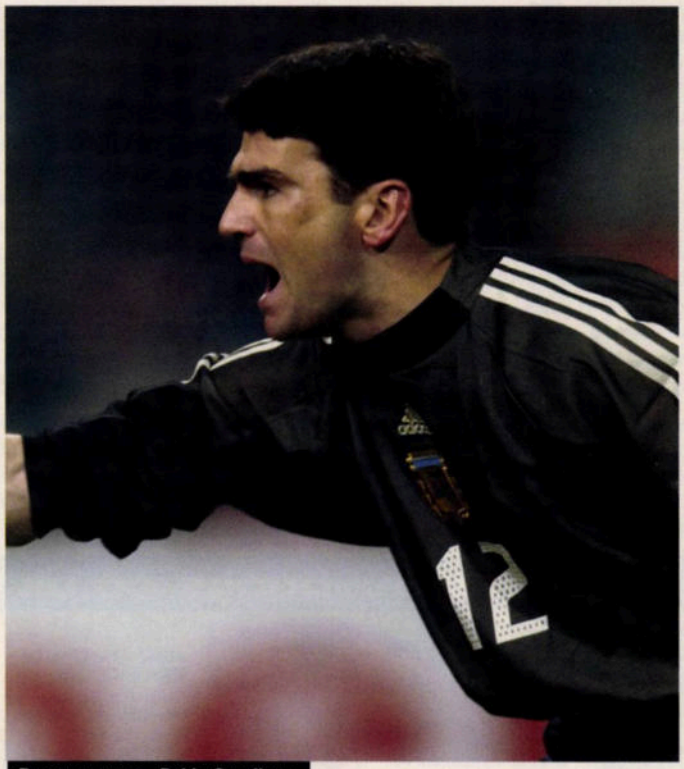
FRANCE: "With so many competitions, including the Confederations Cup, we desperately need a proper harmonisation of the football calendar. It's struck me more and more that the only way a player can find time to get in proper rest and relaxation is when he picks up a serious injury. That's pretty paradoxical!" *– Jean-Marcel Ferret, France team doctor, tells* Le Monde *of his concern for players' fitness.*

Keep Saturday Special

UK: "The Independent Manchester United Supporters Association Association has reacted angrily to Premier League plans to increase the number of live matches from the current 106 games to 138. A campaign was launched last season to protect the traditional 3pm kick-off time on a Saturday after United played only 10 games in that slot. Across the recommended new TV packages, however, broadcasters will now be able to show the Old Trafford club live 25 times." *– BBC website on United fans' attempts to save what may soon be a lost tradition.*

If looks could kill...

SPAIN: "I make mistakes, like every other player. The trouble is with a goalkeeper that your mistakes are far more costly. You always play under the pressure of knowing that if you blunder then your team-mates will kill you with their looks, and the media will bury you!" *– Celta Vigo's Pablo Cavallero in* Don Balon, *despite winning the Trofeo Zamora as the Spanish League's top goalkeeper.*



Pressure game...Pablo Cavallero

OBITUARY: REG DRURY

REG DRURY was different class. It says everything about the man who was the *News of the World*'s chief football reporter for so many years that he did not need to join the anxious media queues to interview managers and players – they queued to talk to him.

Drury, who died in a street accident near his North London home aged 74, delivered a stream of exclusives down the years. These included West Ham transfer-listing Bobby Moore and Arsenal's appointment of Tony Adams as captain in the days when 'exclusive' really meant his paper was the only one with the news.

The most remarkable of his stories, though, was the one that was never told until years later: that England manager Alf Ramsey, two days before the 1966 World Cup Final, called at Drury's home for tea and biscuits "just to get away from it all for a few hours". Hard to imagine Eriksson or Trapattoni dropping in on one of Rupert Murdoch's finest.

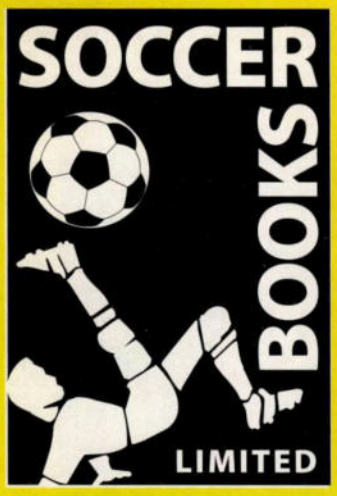
That says less, perhaps, about them and more about the nature of today's media. But professionalism, good contacts and an eye for a story always matter the most: Reg Drury would still have been a No 1.

Local differences

FRANCE: "When I was at Saint-Etienne I had no time for Lyon because local rivalries are intense. It was a bit about rich against poor: the mining town against the bourgeois city. But now I've moved away and grown up I've learned to appreciate Lyon. It's a super place, an ideal city in which to live, and has a real football public. I can't imagine playing there because of my Saint-Etienne 'education' but you should never say never in football. Maybe one day I will be very happy if Lyon want to sign me and I do exactly that." *– Bayern Munich's French defender Willy Sagnol in* L'Equipe *sending out smoke signals during the Confederations Cup.*

Berti gets bolshie

UK: "Scotland manager Berti Vogts banned his players from giving interviews to Sky in the run-up to the Euro qualifier against Germany. He is incensed by what he sees as unwarranted criticism from Sky's Charlie Nicholas and Davie Provan. The ban angered Sky, which is a quarter of the way through a four-year, £27million deal with the SFA for exclusive rights to cover Scotland's international matches and Scottish Cup ties." *– from* UK Press Gazette, *illustrating a clash of appropriately Scottish opinion over the calling of tunes and paying of pipers.*



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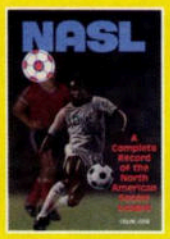

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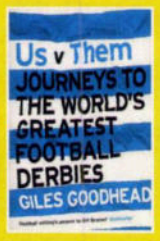

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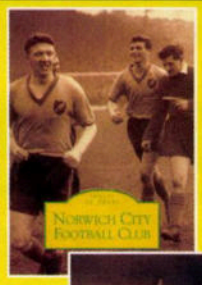

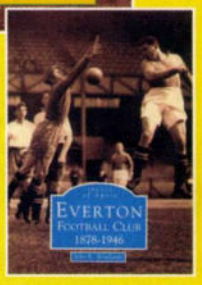

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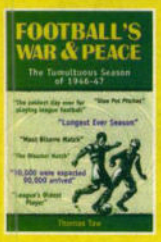

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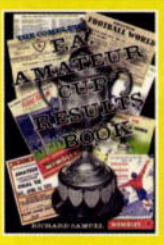

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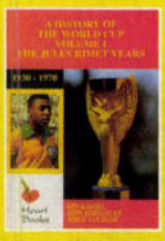

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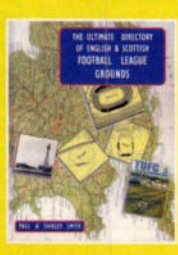

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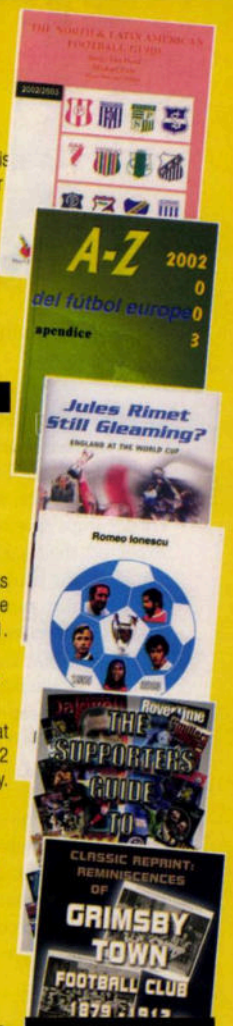

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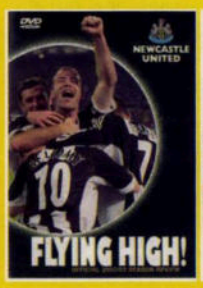

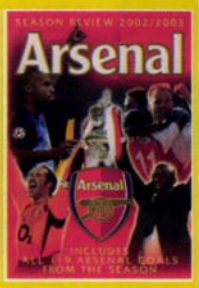

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In the firing line

Nick Bidwell on the temperamental Brazilian forward who has been one of the most wanted men in this summer's transfer market

EX-PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN coach Luis Fernandez and Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson did not just talk about the latter's famous horse Rock of Gibraltar when their paths crossed recently at Longchamps racetrack in Paris. As one might have expected, their trackside conversation swiftly turned to the matter of Ronaldinho, the Parisian club's Brazilian superstar whom Ferguson had designs on bringing to Old Trafford.

"Sir Alex has the same opinion as me on Ronnie," Fernandez said. "He sees him as a nine-and-a-half [a deep-lying forward] and thinks he will combine well with Ruud Van Nistelrooy."

The prospect of the Brazilian employing his unique skills at United is a mouthwatering one. With his blistering speed off the mark, mesmerising dribbling and exuberant sense of invention, Ronaldinho would undoubtedly offer the Red Devils a new dimension going forward, that sliver of attacking unpredictability which could bring the Champions League title another step closer.

Unfortunately, as Fernandez knows better than most, the Ronaldinho story is not based solely on his footballing gifts, his thrilling exploits at the last World Cup or the stunning individual goal he scored for his country against Venezuela at the 1999 Copa America. Such talent comes at a price, and Ronnie comes with a case or two of ill-disciplined baggage as well.

Certainly it is true that Paris Saint-Germain never came up to his sporting expectations following his £3.6million move from Gremio of Porto Alegre in 2001. In his two years at Parc des Princes, a stuttering PSG could not even establish themselves as a power in France, let alone Europe. Yet Ronaldinho had no right to show his regular bouts of unprofessionalism and bad behaviour.

Although the Brazilian could be excused for thinking he was slumming it, he was wrong to show it so often. More mundane domestic fixtures largely triggered indifference, while for the big matches – notably PSG's home and away League wins against arch-rivals Marseille – he was quite magnificent, joyfully giving a recital of his many talents. The charge that he was picking and choosing his games was an accusation even a high-powered American defence attorney would find hard to fight.

Fernandez had good reason to note that the Brazilian "was not leading the lifestyle of a top-level sportsman". Ronaldinho, reported to have a season ticket to various Parisian night-spots and strip clubs, was apparently determined not only to burn the candle at both ends but also to unseat his coach, complaining about Fernandez's tactics and man-management, and warning that he would quit the club if Luis was not shown the door.

'Unfortunately, the Ronaldinho story is not based solely on his footballing gifts. He comes with a case or two of ill-disciplined baggage as well'

Just do it my way...Luis Fernandez and Ronaldinho clashed on numerous occasions at PSG

Power struggle

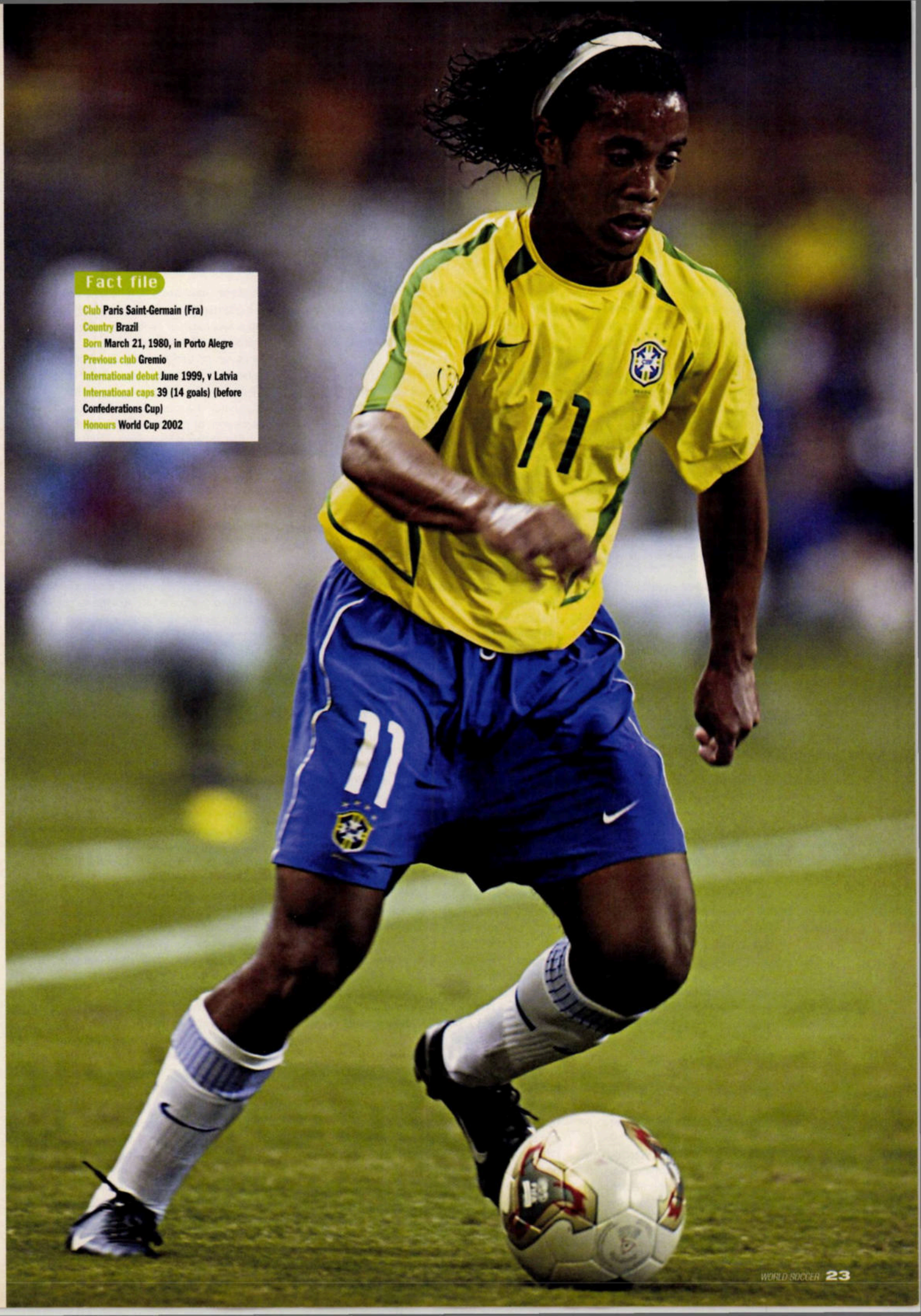
Fernandez's task of trying to rein in his wayward star was made even harder by the PSG board's inclination to back the player in the power struggle. After Ronaldinho broke club rules by smuggling a girl into his hotel room on the eve of a game with Lens, the coach wanted to drop the Brazilian, only to be talked out of it by management. "We went on to lose 3-2, and in the dressing-room after the game I saw our president congratulating Ronnie," said Fernandez. "The look in the eyes of some of the other players told me I had lost their respect."

Not that the response of the PSG authorities was any more hard-line when Ronaldinho returned five days late for training after the winter break, claiming he had been having problems with his famous protruding teeth. A fine of £1,300 was the lightest of slaps on the wrist, and, in a remarkable statement, club president Laurent Perpere – who was sacked himself by club owners Canal Plus at the end of the season – informed a press conference that if he had to choose between Fernandez and Ronaldinho, he would naturally opt for the Brazilian.

This time, however, Fernandez would not listen to the voices of leniency from on high. For several weeks, Ronaldinho would have to kick his heels on the bench. "I'm not crazy enough to deliberately cause problems for myself by leaving out Ronnie," said Fernandez. "If he was playing to 100 per cent of his potential, PSG would win the championship by 10 points."

Of course, it takes two to start and prolong an argument. And on that score the volatile Fernandez has a long track record of clashing with big-name players. But clearly Ronaldinho will have to mend some of his more egocentric ways if he is to be successful at Manchester United, Barcelona, Real Madrid, Newcastle or any other new club.

Despite being one of the world's most exciting talents, he will have to learn to toe the line.



Fact file

Club Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
Country Brazil
Born March 21, 1980, in Porto Alegre
Previous club Gremio
International debut June 1999, v Latvia
International caps 39 (14 goals) (before Confederations Cup)
Honours World Cup 2002

Barcelona or bust

Turkey's goalkeeper talks to Suna Erdem

TURKEY goalkeeper Rustu Recber impressed many with his almost seamless performances at the World Cup last year. This summer, he is heading for Barcelona as a free agent after flirting with Europe's leading clubs, including Arsenal and Manchester United. For him, this is a reward for loyally sticking with his Turkish club, Fenerbahce, through a dreadful season, despite a series of attractive offers from Europe. Although his performances have understandably been patchy at a club in chaos, many believe that, had it not been for his intimidating presence in goal, Fenerbahce's end-of-year standing would have been much worse.

WORLD SOCCER: You have been Turkey's foremost goalkeeper for years. You're 30 now, so why is it that you have only now been courted by the world's top clubs?
RUSTU RECBER: I've always had an ideal – to play at a world-class club like Barcelona. If I hadn't signed for one of the very best I would have retired from Fenerbahce. You always need impetus from somewhere to move on. You can be successful for your own club for years but what's important is to do it on the world stage. The World Cup meant that my team-mates and I could finally make our names known to the world. Now the whole world has begun to watch Turkish football.

You had a tough time in your last season with Fenerbahce – yet often you stood out as someone who was playing well while all collapsed around you. How did you manage to keep it up?
I never dreamed of leaving Fener [for another Turkish club]. It's for better or worse when you belong to the Fener community. The trouble was my team didn't have anything left to aim for – this was clear weeks before the end of the season. It's very difficult to behave professionally in this environment. Because you keep missing targets that can lead to problems. But I just tried to forget this and do my job.

But the others didn't appear to think the same. It looked as if you had to work hard to motivate them.
It's teamwork. However professionally individuals think and behave, if the others don't pull their weight you won't get anywhere. Since I'm well ahead of my team in terms of age and experience I've tried to reflect this on and off the pitch.

In this case, when it came to the captaincy, why have you been...?
Why have I been obstinate about not wanting it? Well, not obstinate, exactly. It's just that I respect the captain's band, and there was this incident when I was captain [after Fenerbahce lost a match angry fans attacked Rustu]. I thought then that the captaincy had been damaged under my responsibility. If there has been any need for me to have some kind of consulting role, I have always tried to do that as well as possible. But as far as the captaincy went, I didn't want it back.

You at least had a good workout this season, having to make so many good saves when Fener played badly. Don't you sometimes enjoy that more than just watching when your team play well?
There is fun in making good saves. It's like a theatre out there. You try to perform well and if you do, of course it's fun. But no, I don't get bored – I enjoy the game when they're playing well. I don't think: "Oh, let the ball come to me" – I wish it never would.

What makes a good goalkeeper?
A special talent, hard work, concentration, motivation. But the goalkeeper must also know his geometry – we work with angles, with timings. He is always a lonely man. He must be fearless and brave. When the others score you can't go up and celebrate with them, and when you let one in and your friends look at you, it feels really lonely.

So what's with the war paint? Is it to make you look more scary?
They say I look different – more intimidating – that I take on a different personality when I use that paint. But I never use it to achieve a certain look. It became prominent during the World Cup, but I'd used it from time to time before. The stadium lights can dazzle quite strongly, and as a keeper that's more difficult for me. I use this paint to stop the glare. The reason I used it for every World Cup match was that I had an allergic reaction to the pitch and conditions. I wasn't the only one – seven of the team had the same problem. It's a matter of the eyes being sensitive to the light. Before every match I go on to the pitch and try to get attuned to the light, and if I need the paint I use it.

But you do have a strong presence in goal that makes you intimidating anyway. You seem to grow considerably when you're in goal – how do you achieve this?
I'm just doing my job out there. My ambition, my desire, my willpower – when you do the right things you have a certain effect. Every goalkeeper has his own style, just like a performer on the stage. And that's my style, that's just what I developed as I played. I can't tell you exactly what it is I do.

Fenerbahce have had a terrible time and after each disaster they seem to be seeking an answer with a new coach or another transfer. Don't you think this is short-sighted?
Things can go badly or well but what's important is to achieve some kind of consistency and stability. But our community is very impatient and wants success straight away. There's a lot of pressure. That's why when things go badly at Fenerbahce some very bad things can happen. Lots of coaches changed, sometimes my team-mates were sent away from the team – but what's crucial for success is to put in place some kind of system. When there is no success immediately this system can be destroyed. Fenerbahce aren't like other football communities – they're a team of the people. We listen to everyone, to the man in the street. It's up to our officials and the leading members of the club to overcome this. But the nature of our community prevents this. When you do try to do something this can really stir things up.

> **'The more Turkish footballers who move to European clubs the easier it will be for the next generation'**

Are you afraid of going abroad? After all, many Turks in the past have failed to fit in when they join a foreign club.
My reputation as a goalkeeper is the same abroad as it is here – I have earned it. So I'm not afraid in the professional sense. There could be one fear – that I'll miss my country. But it's not like I'll be living abroad permanently anyway. Of course people like friends and family around them, that gives you confidence, but we have to create this ourselves in our new environment. I think it's a matter of attitude. Nihat and Tayfun [at Real Sociedad], Okan and Emre [at Internazionale] are all very lucky they have each other. Tugay [Blackburn], on the other hand, has achieved the most difficult thing of all by being in the United Kingdom all alone for so long. The most important thing is to be a professional when you go there. You just say I have come to do my job.

Is it easier for Turks to live abroad now? They don't seem to run crying home because they miss home comforts like they used to.
This is an advantage now for us as Turks – and it is very important that we make use of it. The more Turkish footballers go to Europe, the easier it will be for the next generation, who will see us as an example. There wasn't anybody to set an example before.

Could you have anticipated the David Beckham penalty in the England match in April? He appeared to change direction right at the last moment.
If the ball is going to go in it will. It can sometimes go through the eye of the needle. Before the England match I studied the potential penalty takers. I knew the kind of penalties Beckham usually took – he would usually hit the ball hard, at waist height, and towards the centre. There was just a 10-20 per cent chance that he would shoot to the right, but that's what he did.

You all seemed incredibly disappointed by losing to England. Yet Turkey have never beaten them. Were you so sure that you would do well?
We definitely, definitely didn't think we would be beaten. We expected at least a draw. But I believe we fell into a trap. Before the match the British press praised our players to the skies – as if they were all world-class heroes. So naturally they became over-confident. We were punished for that on the pitch. In all my years I haven't seen us play so badly or lethargically. It was the sort of match we thought "we'll win anyway or at worst draw".

But you can't blame the British press – the players shouldn't have reacted in that way.
You're absolutely right. This means that we still have to learn how to think professionally. We saw at the England match that in our minds we are still not European footballers. They puffed us up and we were deceived by this. But this was a very good lesson for us.

Did the hostile atmosphere and the violent crowd intimidate you – you all looked a bit overawed?
We should have managed to keep a distance from what was going on, but we didn't. It wasn't fear, though. We've all played in much worse circumstances, in much more tense stadiums. No, it was the assumption that we would win anyway.

Following the England match with a 4-0 defeat by the Czech Republic can't have done much for morale.
We're always like this in friendlies. Nobody should expect anything different. This is wrong, of course, but it has become a tradition. Players turn up to friendlies just to see each other and socialise. But we have learned our lesson in official matches, and you'll see how we've changed.

Do you hate the player who scores against you?
If an opponent scores against me, I think: "Well, he's doing his job, just as my job is to make saves." There's no point in getting personal or angry. It doesn't help.

Fact file

Club Barcelona (Spa)
Country Turkey
Born May 10, 1973, in Antalya
Previous club Fenerbahce
International debut October 1994, v Iceland
International caps 79 (0 goals)
Honours Turkish League 1996, 2001

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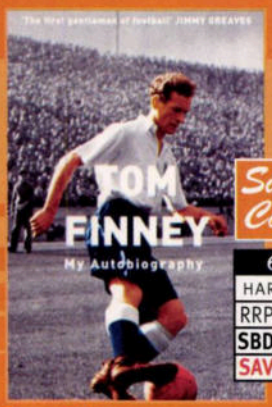

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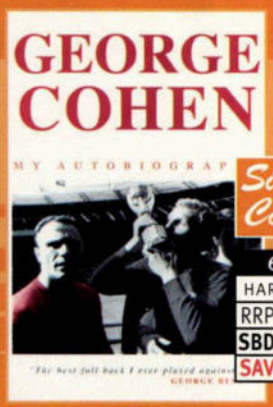

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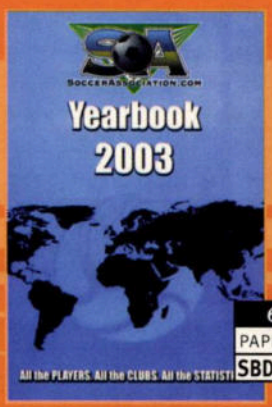

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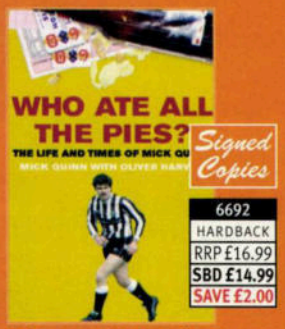

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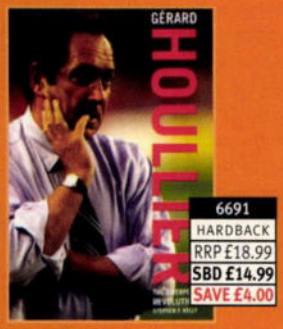

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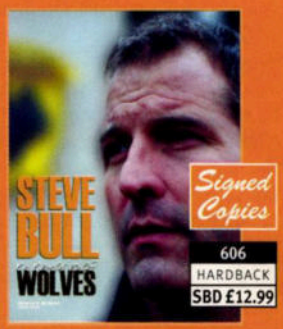

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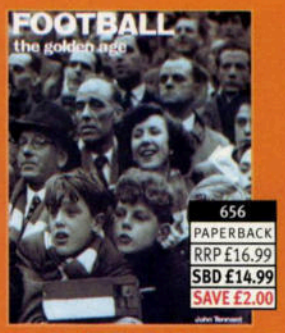

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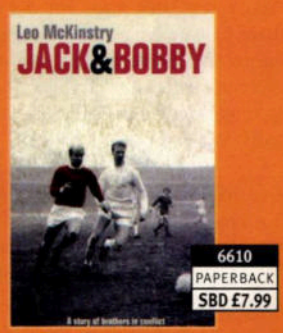

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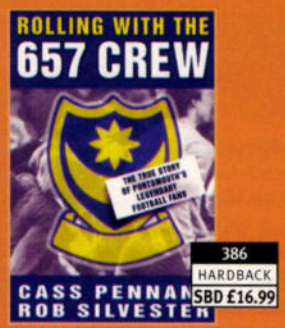

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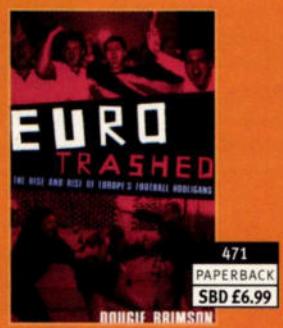

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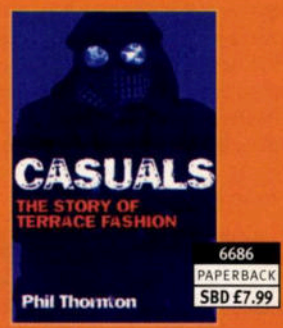

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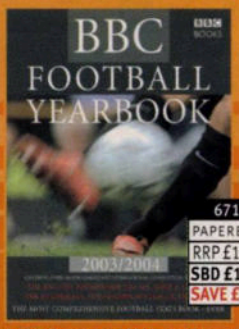

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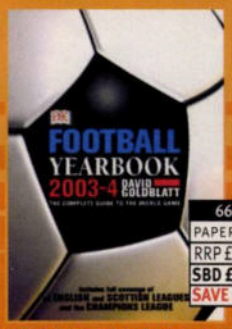

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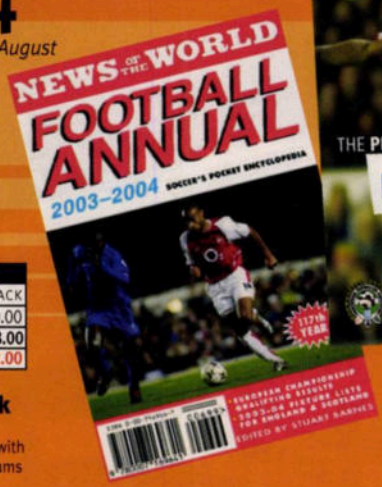

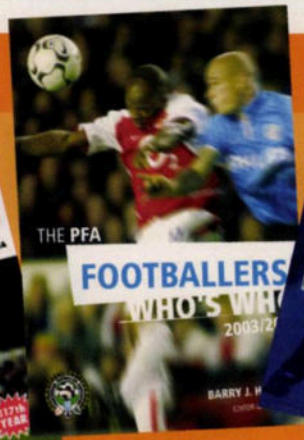

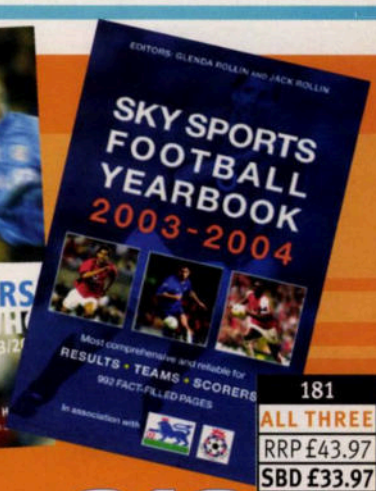

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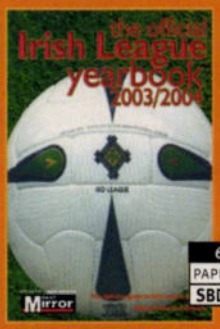

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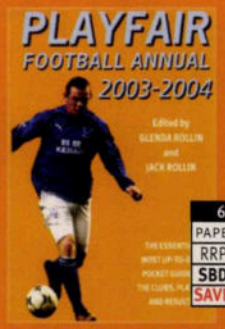

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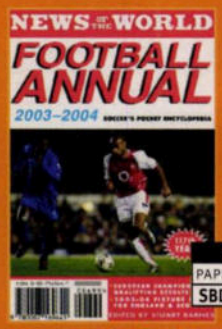

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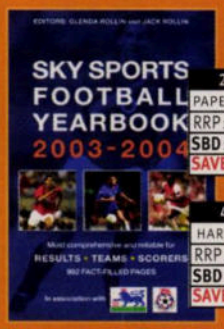

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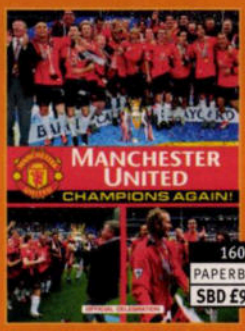

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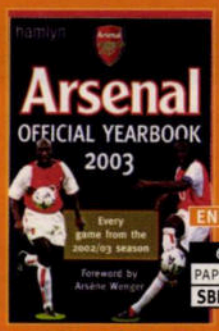

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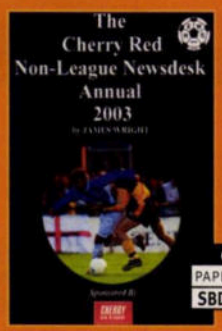

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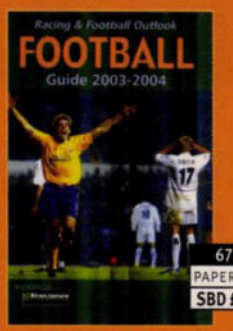

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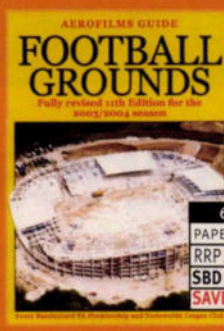

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WSoccAUG03

THE RUHR

Flag-waving...Borussia Dortmund have had plenty to celebrate over the years but they finished only third in the Bundesliga in the season just gone

Germany's epicentre

Keir Radnedge on the long-time rivalry between Borussia Dortmund and Schalke

SOME 12 cities across Germany will welcome fans to the 2006 World Cup finals – from Hamburg in the north to Munich in the south, from Leipzig in the east to Cologne in the west. But for traditionalists the epicentre of the four-yearly football earthquake lies just to the north of Cologne in the Ruhr homeland of long-time rivals Schalke of Gelsenkirchen and Borussia Dortmund.

In English terms the Ruhr has always been most conveniently described as a cross between the North-east and the Black Country between Birmingham and Wolverhampton. This was the region from which, just like the English North-east, it was enough to whistle down the pit to summon up another outstanding footballer.

No fewer than seven clubs from the Ruhr have played in the two Bundesliga divisions this past season, by far the heaviest concentration of any region: Dortmund and Schalke plus Rot-Weiss Oberhausen, MSV Duisburg, VfL Bochum, Arminia Bielefeld and LR Ahlen. To the southern fringe are Koln, Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Monchengladbach.

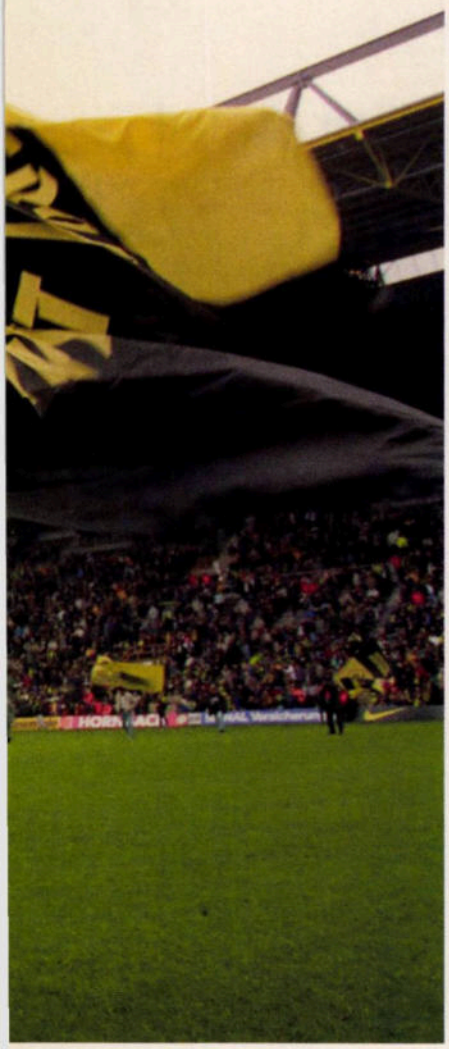
The industrial image is being bulldozed into history. A towering old gas holder at Oberhausen has been converted into an esoteric 'action art' gallery and viewing platform; the slag heaps in Gelsenkirchen have been razed or grassed over and turned into parkland.

But glance out of the train slithering across the Ruhr's World Cup axis and you can still glimpse the occasional skeletons of abandoned factories and their weed-strewn railway sidings. It is social and industrial history but also football history with a fascination of its own. The fuss and fury that accompanied Dortmund and Schalke's fade-outs last season illustrate the hold perpetuated on the German game by not just these clubs but the entire region.

Dortmund, winners of the European Cup in 1997 and Cup-winners Cup in 1965, ended up third in the table, having won the title the season before. Founded in 1909, they have won the German championship six times and the Cup twice. History freezes them as European pioneers: they reached the second round of the second Champions Cup in 1956-57 and the quarter-finals the following season.

Schalke, UEFA Cup-winners in 1997, ended up seventh in the 2002-03 Bundesliga under Frank Neubarth then Marc Wilmots, on his way to the Belgian senate. Founded in 1904, they have won the German title seven times and the Cup four times. They beat Wolves on their one and only path to the quarter-finals of the European Cup in 1958-59.

Dortmund boast the modern-day advantage. But legend leans to Schalke.



Just as the Ruhr equated to the English North-east and the Black Country, so Schalke equate to Newcastle or Aston Villa: a club with a proud history, but a club part-buried under the weight of expectation built on that history.

In Schalke's case, the history is also contentious. One of the most remarkable of football studies unpicks the Schalke legend with delicate precision. *Sturmer fur Hitler* by Gerhard Fischer and Ulrich Lindner (Verlag die Werkstatt) explores the history, both fact and fiction, of German football under the Nazis. Schalke command pivotal analysis because the club won the old German title in 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1940 and 1942, in the days when the championship was played out at the season's end between the winners of the various regional leagues. As well as those six titles, they were also runners-up in 1933 and 1938, and third in 1936.

Did Schalke benefit from Nazi support, as popular assumption now holds? Fischer and Lindner think not. They conclude, from studying newspapers, official documents, memoirs and from first-hand interviews, that Schalke benefited only indirectly, from the wish of prominent Nazis to bask in *their* glory. "There were no special privileges for us," says Herbert Burdenski, Schalke keeper and later coach. "Once we were refused admittance to a youth tournament in Breslau [now Wroclaw in Poland] because we weren't wearing Hitler Youth uniforms. It didn't matter that we were Schalke."

It was in Breslau that the German national team, built on a Schalke nucleus of inspirational inside-forward Ernst Kuzorra and versatile Fritz Szepan, thrashed Denmark 8-0 in May 1937. The game marked the birth of the so-called 'Breslau-Elf' (Breslau 11), which remains a legend to this day. They might even have threatened Italy at the 1938 World Cup finals. But the annexation of Austria prompted political pressure to mix the team with the newly-acquired 'Vienna School'. It didn't work for stylistic and personal reasons. Greater Germany lost 6-3 in Berlin to England – in front of Goebbels, Goering and Hess, though not Hitler – ahead of their first-round exit to Switzerland at the World Cup in France.

Political football

Political pressure compromised Schalke too. In the spring of 1941 Nazi leaders were concerned about fading enthusiasm for the Greater German cause in Austria. By coincidence, Schalke's rivals in the German championship Final were Rapid Vienna. Schalke cruised to a 3-0 lead in 52 minutes; Rapid's great striker, Franz 'Bimbo' Binder, even missed a penalty. Then Rapid benefited from another disputed penalty and hit back to win 4-3. Binder scored a hat-trick from two free-kicks and that second penalty. Austrian pride was, apparently, vindicated.

"This wasn't football, this was politics," grumbled Kuzorra as he collected his runners-up medal from the Sports Minister, Hans von Tschammer und Osten.

Professionalism being banned under the Nazis, Kuzorra was officially a miner. But he never made any secret of the fact that he had only spent two weeks of his life – before his talent was spotted – down a pit.

Team-mate Szepan was considered the greater player, the finest of German footballers before Fritz Walter, Uwe Seeler then Franz Beckenbauer. But disputed tales of how Szepan was supposed to have benefited from the enforced acquisition of a previously Jewish-owned business cast a long shadow over his reputation.

Thus visitors to the World Cup – or even to next year's Champions League Final – will find the avenue east of the Arena AufSchalke immortalises only the name of Kuzorra. Worthy, even so.

The Stadiums

All together...spectators now get all-round viewing at the Westfalenstadion

DORTMUND

Westfalenstadion (prospective capacity: 69,000)
The stadium was built for the 1974 World Cup, and Dortmund's old home, the Rote Erde, survives on the other side of the main stand. The Westfalenstadion hosted Liverpool's memorable 2001 UEFA Cup Final win over Alaves. The following November it was decided to join up the four separate stands, thus increasing seating capacity to around 69,000.

Final venue...the AufSchalke will host the 2004 Champions League decider

GELSENKIRCHEN

Arena AufSchalke (prospective capacity: 52,000)
The AufSchalke was opened on August 13, 2001, next to the old Parkstadion, which was a venue for the 1988 European Championship. AufSchalke has both a sliding roof and a sliding pitch (which sits outside the stadium during the week). One end is also convertible to provide a standing area for fans during Bundesliga games and seating for international matches.

Keir Radnedge
COMMENTARY

Talking a good game...but FIFA president Blatter's reasoning makes sense

Third term lucky for Blatter

FIFA president Sepp Blatter is considering going on beyond the expiry of his present mandate in 2006.

Blatter had said, on his initial election at the expense of Lennart Johansson in 1998, that he did not believe any FIFA president should serve more than two terms. But now he has his feet under the table – surprise, surprise – he is talking of at least a third term.

His reasoning is based on the need for stability to see FIFA safely out the other side of the financial and political crises prompted by the collapses of ISL and Kirch, plus the frightened retreat of World Cup insurer Axa.

If Blatter wants to carry on and is up to it physically and mentally then he should be free to do so. If FIFA's members don't want him they can always vote for whichever African, Asian or American candidate UEFA can find to be its next fall guy.

In any case, common sense has long demanded at least one extra year for Blatter – so that the presidential election can be shifted to the year following a World Cup.

This makes sense for all sorts of reasons. Firstly, election machinations distract attention from the World Cup and do not expose the game's administrators in a particularly impressive light.

Secondly, the success or failure of a president's 'reign' can be better assessed after auditing of the accounts from the four-yearly World Cup cycle.

The joke's on you, Howard

HOWARD WILKINSON, contrary to popular opinion, does have a sense of humour. He is thus the star of my favourite Premiership press conference tale from this past season.

Questioned unreasonably, as he thought, about selection and tactics after another Sunderland defeat, Wilkinson hit back: "How many caps do you lot have?" From the media ranks came the response "43"...from BBC radio's Jimmy Armfield.

But full marks to Wilkinson for turning up to face the media in the circumstances. Some more successful bosses try to delay appearing so long that the moon is rising over the stadium.

Paris match for FIFA

A DATE for your diaries. May 20 next year sees France play Brazil in the FIFA centenary match at the Stade de France. Why Paris? Because that's where the world governing body was founded in 1904, at the old offices of the Union Francaise de Sports Athletiques in the rue Saint-Honore. Mind you, FIFA will still be 99 years old on the day of the match: the founding meeting in 1904 was held on May 21.

Silver thread

TOO early yet to pass judgment on UEFA's silver goal solution when Finals finish level at 90 minutes. It worked well in the UEFA Cup Final when Porto beat Celtic but proved of no value in resolving the Champions League stalemate between Milan and Juve. But the gospel is spreading: the system is being adopted for the Coppa Italia.

Football is what BBC does best

ONE of the delights of the alternate 'free' summer (no World Cup, no European Championship) is the opportunity to eavesdrop on Radio Five Live's coverage of other sports – which proves that the BBC's soccer coverage is in a class of its own.

Charter renewal is around the corner and, of course, not everything can be to everyone's taste (I get irritated by John Murray's mirror-image tactical descriptions so Ray Parlour or David Beckham appear on the left of his midfield, but we all have our quirks and irks).

At least the football desk is staffed largely by men and women with 'proper' journalistic training and independence. You may quake at Alan Green's style or opinions but at least, like the London cabbie, you cannot dispute the knowledge (after all, Beckham probably missed more big games last season than Green).

For all the criticism we heap on football, its personalities and institutions, none of it looks half as bad when you analyse other sports whose biggest events can't pull a live crowd to compare with a mid-table Premiership match. Similarly with the coverage. Commentators in other fields (horse racing a prime example) appear to believe their sole duty is to promote a pristine, perfectionist image of the sport that gives them their grace-and-favour living (rather than the general public, which pays the licence fee and hence their wages).

Everything is brilliant, wonderful, fantastic. But that demeans the participants and commentators. Greatness is perceived by accepting and acknowledging the chasm between mighty mistake and ultimate achievement. That's where football leads the BBC way.

Cheap and demeaning

The Confederations Cup was beyond the pale even before Foe's death, reports Keir Radnedge in Paris

Clean away...Thierry Henry settled the Confederations Cup Final with a golden goal winner and took the Player of the Tournament award

THE grim charade that was the Confederations Cup ended with France beating Cameroon 1-0 through Thierry Henry's golden goal. Gold tarnished almost beyond recognition.

The tragic death of Marc-Vivien Foe after Cameroon's semi-final victory over Colombia had turned the Final into a wake. Only ghouls could have gained any satisfaction from not only its outcome but also the fact it went ahead at all.

No football event is worth dying for and especially not the Confederations Cup. This tawdry, unnecessary event was beyond the pale even before Foe's death. It is, frankly, football prostitution: an unethical and immoral cheapening and demeaning of the beautiful game.

As far as the football went, France deserved their win. Significant depth of talent provided them with both consistency and an attacking edge; Zinedine Zidane, absent because of the Spanish League run-in, was barely missed.

Cameroon were not flattered at finishing runners-up, and Turkey ran them close for commitment. But a rag-tag Brazil spluttered to an angry early exit; Colombia blew hot and cold; and the United States and Japan were both disappointing on an occasion when surprises would not have been, well, surprising. New Zealand were out of their depth but it was unfair that they took the scapegoat's blame for costing Oceania its hard-earned and long-awaited slot at the World Cup finals. FIFA's executive, meeting in Paris on June 27, went back on a previous promise to Oceania that it would have a guaranteed berth.

On an individual level there were lively cameos from Colombia's Geovanny Hernandez and Turkey's Tuncay Sanli as well as tremendous consistency from Henry, the tournament's official best player and four-goal top scorer.

But all this will be forgotten shortly, and only the memory of the Foe tragedy will remain. His widow and brother were at the Stade de France for the Final, at which Cameroon's players wore a shirt with Foe's name and number as vests. France, almost more uncomfortable with the occasion than Cameroon, appeared gloomily surprised at having to turn out at all. As skipper Marcel Desailly said: "If that had happened to one of our players I'm not sure I could have found the strength to play just three days later."

But play they did, honourably. A delicate opening 15 minutes was needed for both teams to adjust to the demands of the day, then Cameroon began to get physical in their more familiar combative way and France unleashed the pace of Henry to what should have been devastating effect. Four times he showed Cameroon a clean pair of heels; three times keeper Idris Kameni saved from the Arsenal man, and once Henry stabbed in a short left-wing cross and Djibril Cisse glanced a header narrowly wide.

Fabien Barthez, restored in the French goal, made one sharp leap to his right to defy Pius N'Diefi and after the break it was Cameroon who looked the more likely to score. Newly-arrived substitute Samuel Eto'o wasted their best chance, however, when he scuffed Timothee Atouba's cross wide of an open goal from close range.

Henry ends the charade

With the players already emotionally drained and being pushed to their physical limits, Henry, thankfully, ended the charade after only six minutes of extra-time by tickling Lilian Thuram's through ball wide of Kameni's right hand.

A 51,000 crowd cheered the players, chanted Foe's name and, at presentation time, roundly booed the introduction of FIFA president Sepp Blatter. As David Mayebi, vice-president of the Cameroon federation, said: "If it had been up to us we wouldn't have played. But FIFA and its president decided differently. If this had been in Cameroon, the Final would definitely have been cancelled. But it seems they do things differently over here."

CONFEDERATIONS CUP SEMI-FINALS

Death of Foe renders results meaningless

FRANCE and Cameroon won their semi-finals but both matches were ultimately overshadowed by the death of Marc-Vivien Foe.

Cameroon played first, against Colombia in Lyon, and snatched a ninth-minute lead through Pius N'Diefi. They contained Colombia to half-time but the South American champions grew increasingly dangerous after the arrival of attacking substitute Elson Becerra.

Once he claimed a penalty after being tripped and minutes later his trickery drew a foul just outside the box which prompted referee Markus Merk to send off Bill Tchato. It was during this spell of sustained Colombian pressure that Foe collapsed with no one near him and was carried off.

Later, medical staff were criticised for failing to provide heart massage on the pitch. But Fabio Cruz, the Colombian team doctor who was first to reach Foe, said: "When I got to him he was still breathing and there was a pulse. He came round briefly and then we lost him again – which was when he was taken to the medical centre."

In his absence, unaware of the tragedy unfolding out of sight, the crowd's attention reverted to Colombia's frantic but vain pursuit of an equaliser. In overtime successive headers from Mario Yepes and Victor Aristizabal rebounded out off keeper Idris Kameni's left-hand post.

Cameroon celebrated having reached the Final but their delight soon changed to despair after news of Foe's death reached them during their warm-down in the largely deserted stadium.

At around the same time, the players of France and Turkey were starting their warm-up for the other semi-final in the Stade de France. It was only on returning to the dressing-rooms that Uruguayan referee Jorge Larrionda could break the news.

"I've never known a dressing-room scene like it," said France coach Jacques Santini later. "There was silence and tears and everyone gathering in their little groups, particularly of course the Lyon players."

With a crowd in place, it was deemed too late to cancel or postpone the match, in which France glided almost effortlessly to a 3-1 half-time lead. Efficiently-worked close-range strikes from Thierry Henry – dedicated to Foe by a finger jabbed skywards – Robert Pires and Sylvain Wiltord were offset by a lone riposte from Gokdeniz Karadeniz.

Tuncay Sanli, the so-called 'Turkish Shevchenko', stretched out his left boot to strike a second shortly after half-time but somehow France held out – albeit with a little luck when Okan Yilmaz rolled a penalty wide shortly before the final whistle.

Turkey, as in Korea and Japan a year ago, made amends by winning the third-place play-off in Saint-Etienne. Tuncay and Okan did the damage with Geovanny Hernandez responding for Colombia. But Colombia had once again left it too late.

United in grief...Cameroon players all wear Foe's No 17 shirt before the Final

Foe wanted to play on

Marc-Vivien Foe had refused to be substituted minutes before his fatal collapse in the semi-final against Colombia in Lyon.

Cameroon were leading the South Americans 1-0 and the Manchester City midfielder had been leading the African champions' resistance against increasing pressure. Around the hour mark, however, the Cameroon bench grew concerned that Foe, who had urged his team-mates at half-time to "do or die" appeared to be wilting in the heat.

Coach Winfried Schafer said: "Both I and the team doctor thought that he seemed to have run out of energy, that he was slowing down. We sent him a message that we wanted to bring him off and send on a substitute, to give us some fresh legs, because we were coming under increasing pressure.

"But Marco refused, said he felt OK and that he wanted to stay on the pitch to help make sure we got to the Final. It was a couple of minutes after that when he collapsed."

Schafer said the Cameroon delegation had no complaints about the medical assistance. A resuscitation team was on hand and two others arrived quickly in response to an emergency call

Oceania anger at Blatter U-turn

PRESIDENT Sepp Blatter turned a political somersault breathtaking by even his standards in Paris as FIFA's executive, squabbling over the number of finalists at the 2006 World Cup, wrecked football's attempt to make up ground on rugby in Australia and New Zealand.

The executive voted by an amazing 22-1 to scrap a promise made 18 months ago to guarantee Oceania one place by right at the World Cup finals.

Oceania had two representatives at the meeting – executive member Ahongalu Fusimalohi from Tonga, who cast the lone protest vote, and the confederation's non-voting president, Australia's Basil Scarsella. Both walked out in protest at the decision. Oceania were victims of a revolt by South America, who stood to lose one play-off option for a place in the finals.

CONMEBOL, the South American confederation, had proposed expanding the finals to 36 teams. This was rejected as unworkable by Blatter and his executive, but the price of appeasing South America was reducing Oceania back to a play-off option.

The decision was a huge personal blow for Scarsella, who had stood up for Blatter in the financial row that had threatened to tear FIFA apart at last year's Seoul Congress.

The FIFA president denied having broken an election promise, saying: "My only power as president is to carry out the democratic will of the executive – which was very clearly expressed."

from the medical centre at the municipally-owned Stade Gerland.

However, 45 minutes' heart massage proved ineffective. Foe's team-mates were told of his death after having gone back out into the largely deserted stadium to warm down half an hour after the match had finished.

Tributes poured in from officials, coaches and players, some of whom had played alongside Foe at Lyon such as France goalkeeper Gregory Coupet and striker Sidney Govou. Coupet said: "Marco was like a big brother to us all at Lyon. He was a rock, a great guy. The Final will be difficult for Cameroon but maybe it might help them. That's how it worked with us at Lyon a few years ago after Luc Borelli, one of the other goalkeepers, was killed in a car crash."

Events after Foe's death were confused. Initially, Cameroon's players voted against playing the Final but the next day they changed their minds after being told by Sepp Blatter that the show must go on and receiving an exhortation from state President Paul Biya.

He sent the squad a message saying: "Football, like life, can be a battle. We have lost one soldier but you are the remainder of the army and it is your duty to carry on the battle as he would have wanted."

At least the planned closing ceremony was scrapped, with, instead, the players of both teams wrapping each other up in a circle around the centre spot before the Final for the anthems and a minute's silence.

Fact file

Marc-Vivien Foe

Born: Nkolo, Cameroon on May 1, 1975

1993 Wins Cameroon Cup with his first club, Canon Yaounde.

September Makes international debut for Cameroon against Mexico, the first of 65 caps (eight goals).

1994 Plays for Cameroon at the World Cup finals in the United States

August Joins French club Lens, where he stays for almost five seasons.

1998 Helps Lens win the French League title for the first time and reach the French Cup Final.

June Misses World Cup finals in France due to a broken leg, which also scuppers a possible transfer to Manchester United.

1999 Joins West Ham United for £4.2m, making 38 League appearances, scoring one goal.

2000 Wins African Nations Cup with Cameroon, with victory over co-hosts Nigeria on penalties after 2-2 draw in the Final in Lagos. Moves to French club Lyon for £6m, playing 61 matches in all competitions and scoring four goals.

2001 Helps Lyon win the French League Cup.

2002 Retains African Nations Cup in Mali when Cameroon beat Senegal on penalties after 0-0 draw in the Final in Bamako. Helps Lyon win their first French League title.

June: Plays for Cameroon in all three of their matches at the Korea/Japan World Cup finals.

August Signs for English Premier League club Manchester City on loan, making 35 League appearances, scoring nine goals. But had been due to return to Lyon for the 2003-04 season.

Marc-Vivien Foe, 1975-2003

CONFEDERATIONS CUP

GROUP A
Tired France qualify for semis

LILIAN THURAM struck the group-winning attitude for France before the action began. The Juventus defender said: "It's been a long, hard season, and I am not sure we really need this competition. But, now we are here, we will do our level best to win it for ourselves and for our supporters."

Winning all three games and topping the group meant exactly that, with Colombia earning the runners-up slot also on merit.

The duel between the two, which opened the group, was also the section's outstanding game and a test from which France manager Jacques Santini emerged with all sorts of credit. Aside from the fatigue factor, he had to achieve a fine balance from within a weakened squad (no Zinedine Zidane or injured Patrick Vieira) comprising players in varying states of readiness. Several England-based players had just come back off holiday, while various team-mates still had their bags packed waiting to leave just as soon as the event was over.

Colombia were also missing various heavyweights from Independiente Medellin and America Cali because of Libertadores Cup commitments but remained as intriguing a package as ever.

The one plus of the Confederations Cup – though not one of which FIFA approves – is that the stars' reluctance offers a stage to the supporting cast. In Colombia's case this meant, in particular, attacking midfielders Jairo Patino and Geovanny Hernandez. At the back, however, they looked far less credible, and Djibril Cisse (twice) and Thierry Henry might have scored before the Arsenal striker broke the deadlock from a penalty after handball by Ruben Velasquez.

Henry was also booked for a retaliatory stab at Ivan Cordoba that was all too disappointingly reminiscent of his silly, costly expulsion at the World Cup. Arsene Wenger, on analyst duty for TF1 and ever amenable to his own, may have put down the relapse merely to end-of-season ennui.

Perhaps for his own protection, Henry had been substituted when Colombia, in the 86th minute, produced the move of the match. The ball flowed dramatically from left to right then into the box, where Victor Aristizabal allowed it to float fatally wide, thus assisting Gregory Coupet to narrow the angle and flip the shot for a corner.

The Lyon keeper, making possibly his last appearance in front of his home-club fans, further delighted them with two more fine saves in the dying minutes. Colombia, as coach Pacho Maturana duly acknowledged, had woken up too late.

The other opening day match in Group A saw Japan take New Zealand apart 3-0 – though that might be handing the Japanese too much credit. New Zealand's defending was awful.

Perhaps the stifling heat and the pressure of the occasion sapped the Oceania champions' physical strength. Basic failings handed all three goals to Shunsuke Nakamura (two) and Hidetoshi Nakata and gave Japan brief leadership of the group on goal difference. This advantage was overturned when they lost 2-1 next time out to France in Saint-Etienne.

Japan, beaten 1-0 by France in the 2001 Confederations Final, played the better football in the first half against the hosts, who fielded only midfielder Olivier Dacourt of the starters against Colombia. But a needless shirt-pull on Jean-Alain Boumsong by Junichi Inamoto just before half-time offered a penalty opener to Robert Pires, captaining France for the first time.

French survive wobble

Nakamura followed up his two-goal success against New Zealand by clipping a free-kick past Fabien Barthez for an equaliser on the hour. But six minutes later Sidney Govou restored a lead that the French held even though, once again, they wobbled in the closing minutes when Nakata volleyed wide from close range and Yasuhito Endo hit the bar with a free-kick. France finished with 10 men after defender Willy Sagnol saw the red card following an overtime foul on Nakata.

Colombia revived their qualifying hopes by defeating New Zealand 3-1 in Lyon after conceding a 27th-minute opening goal to Kiwi striker Raffaele De Gregorio. Jorge Lopez equalised in the 58th minute with the South American champions' first goal in six games, and New Zealand suffered a further setback when striker Chris Killen was sent off for a second yellow card 20 minutes from time. Colombia went in for the kill on strikes from defender Mario Yepes on 75 minutes and midfielder Hernandez on 85.

"We played pretty well until their second goal – the heat caught up with us and we just caved in," said the New Zealand coach Mike Waitt.

Maturana said: "I'm happy with the result because it will prove very important for us. My players learned a lot from our defeat by France and we have learned a lot from this victory. It's all going to be very useful very soon."

Very soon meant two days later when Colombia defeated Japan 1-0 in Saint-Etienne to finish runners-up behind France. Japan had needed only a draw to qualify but a late defensive slip by Tsuneyasu Miyamoto presented man of the match Hernandez with a 68th-minute winner.

Japan coach Zico faced a frustrating trip home. He said: "In several of our matches recently we've played good football but then lost – and it's been the same again tonight."

France cruised through 5-0 against New Zealand, who, as on their sole previous tournament appearance in 1999, lost all three games.

Goals from Olivier Kapo, Henry, Cisse, Ludovic Giuly and Pires guaranteed the French top spot in the group and a semi-final with, as it turned out, Turkey.

Keir Radnedge

Exit...Brazil were out after a 2-2 draw with Turkey

GROUP B
Brazil humiliated

TURKEY claimed distinct revenge over Brazil in Group B for the perceived injustices of their World Cup duels last year. Brazil had beaten Turkey in both their first-round opener and the semi-finals. But the decisive meeting here saw the Turks hold on for a 2-2 draw on the group's last matchday to knock the world champions out of the event altogether – a humiliating exit for coach Carlos Alberto Parreira. Brazil did not even have the excuse of having fielded an experimental side since the Turks were also short of various first-teamers.

Considering how they ended the group, the Turks made a stuttering start by scoring a narrow albeit deserved 2-1 win over the United States. The Americans mixed some of their younger World Cup heroes with the hopeful nucleus of a side for Germany 2006 and Landon Donovan, fleet of foot as ever, must have made European spies wince at their inability to coax him back from MLS.

Defeat was a serious setback for the Americans, who must have fancied springing the first surprise of the tournament. That honour was claimed, instead, a couple of hours later by Cameroon in their 1-0 win over Brazil in the Stade de France.

The Brazilians are always popular visitors to France but a half-full stadium at Saint-Denis generated more vocal support for Cameroon. Parreira included only two of last year's World Cup-winning starters, with most of the attention centred on Ronaldinho.

Brazil had the greater natural talent, but

Cameroon the better teamwork. That ultimately paid off when a sloppy Brazilian clearance fell for Samuel Eto'o. His acceleration exposed Juan and Lucio – not for the first time – before he volleyed a thrilling winner beyond Dida's left hand.

In Lyon Brazil got their campaign back on track, at least temporarily, when Adriano's 22nd-minute goal after an admittedly amateurish mistake from Gregg Berhalter edged them to a 1-0 win over the US. The Americans were saved from a heavier defeat by the reflexes of apparently Manchester United-bound goalkeeper Tim Howard.

Howard's heroics meant Brazil had to beat Turkey in the last match to progress. The Turks had missed an early chance to secure a last-four place when they lost 1-0 to Cameroon who snatched qualification with an overtime penalty after midfielder Modeste Mbami was fouled inside the penalty area. Geremi converted the kick.

A goalless draw against the homeward-bound US secured top spot in the group for Cameroon.

Brazil, simultaneously, went from disappointment to disaster when they were knocked out after drawing only 2-2 against Turkey in Saint-Etienne. The Brazilians set off confidently with an opening strike from Adriano but complacency struck once more as they conceded goals to Gokdeniz Karadeniz on 53 minutes and substitute Okan Yilmaz on 81. Brazil substitute Alex equalised in the third minute of stoppage time, but, in the immediate aftermath, Ronaldinho was dismissed for a second yellow card as he wrestled for the ball with Turkey keeper Rustu Recber.

Turkey thus edged into runners-up spot on goals scored – four compared with Brazil's three.

Keir Radnedge

CONFEDERATIONS CUP

Group A

June 18 - Saint-Denis

New Zealand 0

Japan 3 (Nakamura 12, 75, H Nakata 65)

HT: 0-1. **Att:** 36,038. **Ref:** Codjia (Ben)

New Zealand: Utting - Davis, Oughton, Zoricich, Nelsen, Elliott, Lines (Hickey 70), Vicelich, Killen (Bouckenooghe 80), Burton (Jackson 73), Coveny.

Japan: Narazaki - Yamada, Miyamoto, Tsuboi, Alex, Endo, H Nakata, Inamoto, Okubo, Nakamura, Takahara.

June 18 - Lyon

France 1 (Henry pen 39)

Colombia 0

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,541. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)

France: Coupet - Thuram, Desailly, Mexes, Lizarazu, Dacourt, Pedretti, Kapo (Pires 61), Wiltord, Cisse (Govou 77), Henry (Marlet 85).

Colombia: O Cordoba - G Martinez (Vallejo 90), I Cordoba, Yepes, Bedoya, Patino (Arriaga 66), Lopez, Velasquez, Hernandez, Becerra, Aristizabal.

June 20 - Lyon

Colombia 3 (Lopez 58, Yepes 75, Hernandez 85)

New Zealand 1 (De Gregorio 27)

HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,811. **Ref:** Batres (Gtm)

Colombia: O Cordoba - G Martinez, I Cordoba, Yepes, Bedoya (Arriaga 77), Hernandez, Lopez, Velasquez (Patino 8), Murillo (Valentierra 46), Becerra, Aristizabal.

New Zealand: Utting - Oughton, Hay, Nelsen, Davis, Coveny (Smeltz 83), Elliott, De Gregorio, Vicelich, Hickey, Killen. *Sent off: Killen 68min.*

June 20 - Saint-Etienne

France 2 (Pires pen 43, Govou 65)

Japan 1 (Nakamura 59)

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,070. **Ref:** Shield (Aus)

France: Barthez - Sagnol, Gallas, Boumsong, Silvestre, Pires, Dabo, Dacourt (Pedretti 57), Rothen (Wiltord 66), Govou, Marlet (Henry 80). *Sent off: Sagnol 90min.*

Japan: Narazaki - Yamada, Tsuboi, Miyamoto, Alex, H Nakata, Inamoto (K Nakata 73), Endo, Nakamura (Ogasawara 80), Okubo, Takahara.

June 22 - Saint-Denis

France 5 (Kapo 17, Henry 20, Cisse 71, Giuly 90, Pires 90)

New Zealand 0

HT: 2-0. **Att:** 36,842. **Ref:** Moradi (Irn)

France: Landreau - Thuram, Mexes, Desailly, Lizarazu, Giuly, Pedretti (Dabo 68), Wiltord (Pires 76), Kapo, Cisse, Henry (Marlet 74).

New Zealand: Utting - Hay (Smith 81), Davis, Zoricich (Oughton 73), Nelsen, Bouckenooghe, Elliott, De Gregorio, Burton (Jackson 68), Coveny, Hickey.

June 22 - Saint-Etienne

Japan 0

Colombia 1 (Hernandez 68)

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,541. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)

Japan: Narazaki - H Nakata, Ogasawara (Matsui 74), Okubo (Nagai 67), Alex, K Nakata, Miyamoto, Endo (Oku 82), Takahara, Tsuboi, Yamada.

Colombia: O Cordoba - Yepes, Mera, Aristizabal, Hernandez, Diaz (Valentierra 46), Arriaga (Vallejo 76), Lopez, Bedoya, Patino, G Martinez.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Colombia	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Japan	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
New Zealand	3	0	0	3	1	11	0

Group B

June 19 - Saint-Etienne

Turkey 2 (Okan Yilmaz pen 39, Tuncay 70)

United States 1 (Beasley 36)

HT: 1-1. **Att:** 16,944. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)

Turkey: Omer - Fatih Sonkaya, Alpay, Bulent, Ibrahim Uzulmez, Volkan, Selcuk, Ahmet (Ergun 42), Gokdeniz, Okan Yilmaz (Huseyin 90), Tuncay (Ibrahim Toraman 80).

USA: Howard - Hejduk, Califf, Berhalter (Twellman 79), Vanney, Beasley, Armas, Convey, Donovan, Kirovski (Mathis 59), Lewis (Stewart 72).

June 19 - Saint-Denis

Brazil 0

Cameroon 1 (Eto'o 83)

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 46,719. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)

Brazil: Dida - Belletti, Lucio, Juan, Kleber, Kleberson (Carlos Adriano 79), Emerson Ferreira, Gil, Ricardinho, Adriano (Ilan 66), Ronaldinho.

Cameroon: Kameni - Perrier Doumbe, Mettomo, Song, Tchato, Geremi, Djemba Djemba, Foe (Atouba 64), Mbami, Idrissou (Job 67), Eto'o (N'Diefi 90).

June 21 - Saint-Denis

Cameroon 1 (Geremi pen 90)

Turkey 0

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 43,743. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

Cameroon: Kameni - Perrier Doumbe, Mettomo, Song, Geremi, Djemba Djemba (Atouba 70), Mbami, Tchato (Mezague 78), Foe, Idrissou (Job 56), Eto'o.

Turkey: Rustu - Fatih Akyel, Servet, Deniz, Ibrahim Toraman, Volkan (Gokdeniz 60), Selcuk, Ergun, Basturk, Tuncay (Huseyin 89), Okan Yilmaz (Necati 76).

June 21 - Lyon

Brazil 1 (Adriano 22)

United States 0

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,306. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)

Brazil: Dida - Belletti (Maurinho 70), Lucio, Juan, Kleber, Kleberson, Emerson Ferreira, Alex (Gil 73), Ricardinho, Ronaldinho, Adriano (Ilan 89).

USA: Howard - Cherundolo, Bocanegra, Berhalter, Gibbs (Convey 78), Mastroeni (Twellman 84), Mathis, Klein (Lewis 57), Stewart, Donovan, Beasley.

June 23 - Saint-Etienne

Brazil 2 (Adriano 23, Alex 90)

Turkey 2 (Gokdeniz 53, Okan Yilmaz 81)

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 29,170. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)

Brazil: Dida - Maurinho, Lucio, Juan, Gilberto (Kleber 71), Kleberson, Emerson Ferreira, Ricardinho (Alex 63), Ronaldinho, Ilan (Gil 61), Adriano. *Sent off: Ronaldinho 90min.*

Turkey: Rustu - Fatih Akyel, Alpay, Bulent, Ergun (Ibrahim Toraman 72), Gokdeniz, Selcuk, Volkan (Okan Yilmaz 35; Serkan 88), Ibrahim Uzulmez, Basturk, Tuncay.

June 23 - Lyon

United States 0

Cameroon 0

Att: 19,206. **Ref:** Shield (Aus)

USA: Howard - Cherundolo, Bocanegra, Califf, Gibbs, Convey, Armas, Martino (Donovan 55), Lewis (Beasley 82), Mathis, Kirovski (Stewart 70).

Cameroon: Kwekeu - Falemi, Mettomo, Njanka, Bahoken (Geremi 83), Emana, Mezague (Mbami 75), Atouba, Epalle, Idrissou, Job (Eto'o 75).

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
Turkey	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Brazil	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
United States	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Semi-finals

June 26 - Lyon

Cameroon 1 (N'Diefi 9)

Colombia 0

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,352. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)

Cameroon: Kameni - Tchato, Mettomo, Song, Njanka, Foe (Mezague 75), Geremi, Mbami, Djemba Djemba, N'Diefi (Atouba 74), Idrissou (Falemi 90). *Sent off: Tchato 69min.*

Colombia: O Cordoba - I Cordoba, Yepes, G Martinez, Bedoya (Murillo 70), Lopez, Velasquez (Becerra 46), Patino, Hernandez, Valentierra, Aristizabal.

June 26 - Saint-Denis

France 3 (Henry 11, Pires 26, Wiltord 43)

Turkey 2 (Gokdeniz 42, Tuncay 48)

HT: 3-1. **Att:** 41,195. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)

France: Coupet - Thuram, Gallas, Desailly, Silvestre, Pires (Kapo 70), Dacourt, Pedretti, Henry, Wiltord (Giuly 78), Govou (Cisse 66).

Turkey: Rustu (Omer 36) - Fatih Akyel, Bulent, Alpay, Ibrahim Uzulmez, Ergun, Basturk (Necati 81), Gokdeniz, Selcuk (Volkan 85), Tuncay, Okan Yilmaz.

Third-place play-off

June 28 - Saint-Etienne

Colombia 1 (Hernandez 63)

Turkey 2 (Tuncay 2, Okan Yilmaz 86)

HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,237. **Ref:** Shield (Aus)

Colombia: O Cordoba - I Cordoba, Yepes, G Martinez, Bedoya, Lopez (Valentierra 28), Velasquez, Patino, Becerra (Arriaga 41), Hernandez, Aristizabal.

Turkey: Omer - Servet, Ibrahim Uzulmez, Fatih Sonkaya (Selcuk 60), Volkan (Ergun 87), Gokdeniz, Ibrahim Toraman, Serkan, Deniz, Tuncay, Necati (Okan Yilmaz 66).

Final

June 29 - Stade de France, Saint-Denis

Cameroon 0

France 1 (Henry 97 - golden goal)

Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 51,985. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)

Cameroon: Kameni - Perrier Doumbe, Mettomo, Song - Geremi, Djemba Djemba, Mbami, Atouba - Mezague (Emana 91), Idrissou - N'Diefi (Eto'o 67).

France: Barthez - Sagnol (Thuram 76), Gallas, Desailly, Lizarazu - Giuly, Pedretti, Dacourt (Kapo 90), Wiltord (Pires 65) - Cisse, Henry.

Winning smile...Greece's Giannakopoulos is congratulated by Seitaridis after scoring against Spain

EURO 2004 QUALIFIERS

The unlikely lads

Greece head the list of surprise qualifying group leaders

SEPTEMBER 6 and 10 are the next key dates in the progression down the road to the European Championship finals in Portugal next year. That is when the first teams should secure qualification. Right now the gang of five likely to be the first of the 15 teams to join the hosts – Greece, France, Sweden, Wales and Switzerland – includes some unlikely names.

In **Group 1** holders France will qualify if they beat Cyprus on September 6 and then draw away to closest pursuers Slovenia four days later.

Group 2 is far more complicated, with Denmark, Norway and Romania all with a realistic chance of topping the group. Denmark moved two points clear in June thanks to their 2-0 win in Luxembourg courtesy of goals from Claus Jensen and Thomas Gravesen, coupled with Norway's 1-1 home draw with Romania in Oslo. The Norwegians needed a 78th-minute penalty from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to wipe out the Romanian advantage, acquired 14 minutes earlier through Ioan Ganea.

The Czech Republic, the **Group 3** leaders, remain one of nine unbeaten teams in the qualifiers after a 5-0 home win over Moldova in Olomouc. But Holland have the same number of points after their 2-0 win in Belarus. Both the top two have a game in hand over third-placed Austria.

The happy surprise in **Group 4** has been the form of Hungary after almost two decades in the international doldrums. They won 5-0 away to San Marino, with the outstanding Krisztian Lisztes scoring twice, to stay level on points with leaders Sweden.

Even more remarkably, Latvia remain in contention. They have 10 points, just one fewer than the top two, and a game in hand on Hungary.

Sweden strode on with a 3-0 win over Poland on goals from Anders Svensson (two) and Marcus Allback. Poland's World Cup dreams of a year ago seem light years away.

Amazingly, Iceland will go top of **Group 5** if they win in the Faroe Islands on August 20. Reykjavik will not then be an easy place for Germany to visit on September 6. Rudi Voller's men had enough problems with the Faroese in June, and only won after goals in the last two minutes from Miroslav Klose and Fredi Bobic. Earlier, the Germans further stifled Scotland's hopes by forcing a 1-1 draw, unimpressive as it was, at Hampden Park, Glasgow.

A year ago the Germans were runners-up at the World Cup but recent performances underlined just how fortunate they were in Korea and Japan. Franz Beckenbauer, former captain and coach and now a vice-president of the German federation, said: "We are back to where we were before the World Cup. When Michael Ballack is not there or has a bad day, we produce very little."

One happy German, however, is Otto Rehhagel, the boss of Greece, who have emerged as unlikely favourites in **Group 6** after 1-0 wins away to Spain and home to Ukraine. If Greece win their remaining matches – away to Armenia and home to Northern Ireland – they will leave Spain and Ukraine scrapping over second spot and a place in the play-offs.

Inaki Saez's honeymoon with the Spanish media has come to an abrupt end. The defeat at home to Greece not only left them vulnerable in qualifying terms but undermined confidence and cohesion ahead of the visit to Belfast. There, Raul and co could only draw 0-0 with Northern Ireland.

England will go top of **Group 7** if they win away to Macedonia on September 6 and then at home to Liechtenstein four days later. Sven Goran Eriksson's men overcame a rickety first half to come from behind and defeat Slovakia 2-1 in Middlesbrough. Michael Owen struck both goals on his 50th appearance. Wayne Rooney looked short of bounce and it was only after he had been replaced by the nifty Darius Vassell that England put their attacking act together.

Turkey, who host England in the likely group decider on October 11, stayed top of the table by defeating Macedonia 3-2 in Istanbul. The Turks had even more problems than England, having to hit back from 1-0 and then 2-1 down. Veteran Hakan Sukur struck the winner on the hour.

Group 8 continues to be as tight as ever, with only one point splitting Bulgaria, Croatia and Belgium. But **Group 9** is now a private matter between Wales and Italy after the *Azzurri* won 2-0 away to Finland on goals from Francesco Totti and Alex Del Piero.

Serbia & Montenegro lost not only the match but also their manager when going down 2-1 away to Azerbaijan, now freed from the threat of a suspension over their government's interference in the Azeri federation. Dejan Savicevic quit straight after the match, the result of which ended all practical prospect of Serb qualification. Several veteran players, including Predrag Mijatovic, also fell on their international swords.

In **Group 10**, Switzerland stayed two points clear of the Republic of Ireland after beating Albania 3-2 at home. They are the favourites to keep the top two spots, since while Russia have a game in hand on Ireland, they are in terrible form.

As for the hosts, stadium building is largely on course but costs are edging off beam. The Portuguese government is underwriting 25 per cent of the £350million being invested in the 10 stadium projects. But already auditors have warned that building costs are running a projected 23 per cent beyond budget. Portuguese federation president Gilberto Madail, attempting to make the best of a controversial job, said only: "These are increases in investment and not, in our view, cost overruns." But there will be complaints later on when local authorities and clubs are asked to make up the shortfall.

EURO 2004 QUALIFIERS

Group 1

June 7 - Antalya, Turkey
Israel 0
Slovenia 0
Att: 2,500. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Israel: Elimelech - Afek (Zandberg 71), Benado, Ben-Haim, Keisi, Revivo, Nimni, Abuksis (Holtzman 83), Tal (Badir 76), Benayoun, Zano.
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Cipot, Karic, Vugdalic, Knavs, Sukalo, Siljak, Zahovic, Pavlin, Gajser (Koren 71), Acimovic (Snofl 86).

June 7 - Valletta
Malta 1 (Dimech 72)
Cyprus 2 (M Constantinou pen 23, 54)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Brugger (Aut)
Malta: Darmanin - Camenzuli, Vella, Carabott, Said (Bogdanovic 85), Dimech, Turner, Giglio, Michael Mifsud, Mallia (Agius 67), Nwoko (Muscat 23). *Sent off: Darmanin 22min.*
Cyprus: N Panayiotou - Konnafis, Daskalakis (Foukkaris 66), Ilia, Satsias, Okkas (Yiasoumi 80), M Constantinou, C Michael, Okkarides, Charalambidis (Garpozis 90), Christodoulou.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	5	5	0	0	19	2	15
Slovenia	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Israel	5	2	2	1	6	3	8
Cyprus	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Malta	7	0	0	7	3	22	0

07.09.02 .....Cyprus-France 1-2
07.09.02 .....Slovenia-Malta 3-0
12.10.02 .....France-Slovenia 5-0
12.10.02 .....Malta-Israel 0-2
16.10.02 .....Malta-France 0-4
20.11.02 .....Cyprus-Malta 2-1
29.03.03 .....Cyprus-Israel 1-1
29.03.03 .....France-Malta 6-0
02.04.03 .....Israel-France 1-2
02.04.03 .....Slovenia-Cyprus 4-1
30.04.03 .....Israel-Cyprus 2-0
30.04.03 .....Malta-Slovenia 1-3
07.06.03 .....Israel-Slovenia 0-0
07.06.03 .....Malta-Cyprus 1-2
06.09.03 .....France-Cyprus
06.09.03 .....Slovenia-Israel
10.09.03 .....Israel-Malta
10.09.03 .....Slovenia-France
11.10.03 .....Cyprus-Slovenia
11.10.03 .....France-Israel

Group 2

June 7 - Copenhagen
Denmark 1 (Gronkjaer 5)
Norway 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 41,824. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Denmark: Sorensen - Helveg, Laursen, Henriksen, N Jensen, Gravesen, Wieghorst, Gronkjaer (Rommedahl 71), C Jensen (Larsen 62), Martin Jorgensen (Per Nielsen 84), Sand.
Norway: Olsen - Basma, Lundekvam, R Johnsen, Riise, Iversen, E Bakke, Andersen (Bergdolmo 46), Leonhardsen (T A Flo 62), Carew, Solskjaer (H Flo 90).

June 7 - Craiova
Romania 2 (Mutu 46, Ganea 88)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Bossen (Hol)
Romania: Lobont - Contra, Rat, Iencsi, Chivu, Radoi, Codrea (Bundea 66), Pancu, Ganea, Mutu (Miu 86), Ilie (Soava 79).
Bosnia: Hasagic - Berberovic (Blatnak 72), Music, Konjic, Bajramovic, Hibic, Bolic, Beslija (Bartolovic 50), Barbarez, Grujic, Hrgovic (Spahic 71).

June 11 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Denmark 2 (C Jensen 22, Gravesen 50)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,869. **Ref:** Baskakov (Rus)
Luxembourg: Besic - Reiter, Federspiel, Schauls, Strasser, Remy, Leweck, Molitor, Posing, Cardoni, Braun (Christophe 71).
Denmark: Sorensen - Wieghorst (Larsen 53), Henriksen, Laursen, N Jensen, Bogelund, Gravesen, Gronkjaer (Rommedahl 64), C Jensen, Martin Jorgensen, Sand (Skoubo 74).

June 11 - Oslo
Norway 1 (Solskjaer pen 78)
Romania 1 (Ganea 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,890. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Norway: Olsen - Basma, H Berg (Lundekvam 85), R Johnsen, Bergdolmo, Solskjaer, F Johnsen (T A Flo 70), Andersen, E Bakke, Riise, Carew (Iversen 81).
Romania: Lobont - Contra, Iencsi, Chivu, Rat, Pancu (Bratu 85), Radoi, Soava, Ilie (Stoica 46), Ganea, Mutu.

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	6	4	1	1	12	6	13
Norway	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
Romania	6	3	1	2	15	7	10
Bosnia-Herz	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Luxembourg	5	0	0	5	0	15	0

07.09.02 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Romania 0-3
07.09.02 .....Norway-Denmark 2-2
12.10.02 .....Denmark-Luxembourg 2-0
12.10.02 .....Romania-Norway 0-1
16.10.02 .....Luxembourg-Romania 0-7
16.10.02 .....Norway-Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-0
29.03.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Luxembourg ..2-0
29.03.03 .....Romania-Denmark 2-5
02.04.03 .....Denmark-Bosnia-Herzegovina 0-2
02.04.03 .....Luxembourg-Norway 0-2
07.06.03 .....Denmark-Norway 1-0
07.06.03 .....Romania-Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-0
11.06.03 .....Luxembourg-Denmark 0-2
11.06.03 .....Norway-Romania 1-1
06.09.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Norway
06.09.03 .....Romania-Luxembourg
10.09.03 .....Denmark-Romania
10.09.03 .....Luxembourg-Bosnia-Herzegovina
11.10.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Denmark
11.10.03 .....Norway-Luxembourg

Group 3

June 7 - Minsk
Belarus 0
Holland 2 (Overmars 62, Kluivert 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
Belarus: Tumilovich - Lukhvich, Ostrovski, Shtanyuk (Omelyanchuk 90), Shuneiko (Kovba 75), Bialkevich, Kulchy, Lavrik, Romaschenko (Hleb 51), Gurenko, Kutuzov.
Holland: Van der Sar - Reiziger (Bosvelt 46), Stam, F De Boer, Van Bronckhorst (Overmars 60), Seedorf, Van Bommel, Cocu, Zenden, Kluivert, Van Nistelrooy (Van der Vaart 75).

June 7 - Tiraspol
Moldova 1 (Frunza 60)
Austria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Paraty Silva (Por)
Moldova: Hmaruc - Cebotari, Olexici, Testemitanu, Catinsus, Priganiuc, Covaliciuc, Ivanov, Boret (Andriuta 68), Frunza (Valuta 85), Rogaciov (Patula 78).
Austria: Mandl - Scharner (Eder 80), Ehmann, Dospel (Cerny 56), Stranzl, Aufhauser, Schopp, Flogel, Wagner (Wallner 70), Kirchler, Haas.

June 11 - Innsbruck
Austria 5 (Aufhauser 33, Haas 47, Kirchler 52, Wallner 62, Cerny 70)
Belarus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,100. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)
Austria: Mandl (Payer 85) - Scharner, Ehmann, Stranzl (Hieblinger 46), Dospel, Cerny, Aufhauser, Flogel, Wagner, Haas (Wallner 60), Kirchler.
Belarus: Tumilovich - Lukhvich, Ostrovski, Shtanyuk (Krapkovsky 66), Omelyanchuk, Bialkevich (Kovba 55), Gurenko, Kulchy, Lavrik, Kutuzov (Vasilyuk 46), Romaschenko.

June 11 - Olomouc
Czech Republic 5 (Smicer 41, Koller pen 73, Stajner 82, Lokvenc 88, 90)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,097. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
Czech Republic: Cech - Grygera, Ujfalusi, Galasek, Bolf, Jankulovski, Smicer (Baros 59), Poborsky (Stajner 65), Rosicky, Nedved, Koller (Lokvenc 80).
Moldova: Hmaruc - Covalenco, Olexici, Testemitanu, Catinsus, Priganiuc, Covaliciuc (Pogreban 83), Ivanov, Boret, Cebotari (Frunza 76), Rogaciov (Patula 76). *Sent off: Priganiuc 79min.*

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Republic	5	4	1	0	14	1	13
Holland	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
Austria	6	3	0	3	9	8	9
Belarus	6	1	0	5	2	15	3
Moldova	6	1	0	5	3	13	3

07.09.02 .....Austria-Moldova 2-0
07.09.02 .....Holland-Belarus 3-0
12.10.02 .....Belarus-Austria 0-2
12.10.02 .....Moldova-Czech Republic 0-2
16.10.02 .....Austria-Holland 0-3
16.10.02 .....Czech Republic-Belarus 2-0
29.03.03 .....Belarus-Moldova 2-1
29.03.03 .....Holland-Czech Republic 1-1
02.04.03 .....Czech Republic-Austria 4-0
02.04.03 .....Moldova-Holland 1-2
07.06.03 .....Belarus-Holland 0-2
07.06.03 .....Moldova-Austria 1-0
11.06.03 .....Austria-Belarus 5-0
11.06.03 .....Czech Republic-Moldova 5-0
06.09.03 .....Belarus-Czech Republic
06.09.03 .....Holland-Austria
10.09.03 .....Czech Republic-Holland
10.09.03 .....Moldova-Belarus
11.10.03 .....Austria-Czech Republic
11.10.03 .....Holland-Moldova

Group 4

June 7 - Budapest
Hungary 3 (Szabics 51, 59, Gera 86)
Latvia 1 (Verpakovskis 38)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Hungary: Vegh - Urban, Dragoner (Gera 39), Juhar, C Feher, Lipcsei, Lisztes (Boor 78), Dardai, Low, Szabics, Kenesei (Lendvai 65). *Sent off: Juhar 61min.*
Latvia: Kolinko - Isakovs, Zemlinskis, Stepanovs, Blagonadezdins, Bleidelis (Stolcers 79), Astafjevs (Semjonovs 85), Laizans, Lobanovs (Miholaps 71), Rubins, Verpakovskis.

June 7 - Serravalle
San Marino 0
Sweden 6 (M Jonson 16, 60, 71, Allback 52, 86, Ljungberg 55)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,184. **Ref:** Delevic (Ser)
San Marino: F Gasperoni - C Valentini (Zonzini 66), Gennari, Albani, Matteoni, S Bacciocchi, B Gasperoni, Moretti (R Selva 86), P Montagna, A Selva, Vannucci (De Luigi 77).
Sweden: Isaksson - Lucic, Mellberg, Jakobsson, Edman, Mjallby (M Nilsson 73), Andreas Andersson, Kallstrom (A Svensson 57), Ljungberg (A Johansson 73), Allback, M Jonson.

June 11 - Serravalle
San Marino 0
Hungary 5 (Boor 4, Lisztes 21, 81, Kenesei 61, Szabics 77)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,410. **Ref:** Clark (Sco)
San Marino: F Gasperoni - S Bacciocchi, Matteoni, Albani, C Valentini, B Gasperoni, Zonzini, Vannucci (Gennari 66), De Luigi (P Montagna 73), Michele Marani, A Selva.
Hungary: Vegh - Bodog, Dragoner, Szekeres (Fuzi 56), Boor, Lipcsei (Lendvai 73), Lisztes, Dardai (Zavadszky 79), Low, Szabics, Kenesei.

June 11 - Stockholm
Sweden 3 (A Svensson 15, 71, Allback 43)
Poland 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,220. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Sweden: Isaksson - Lucic (Michael Svensson 87), Mellberg, Jakobsson, Edman, Mjallby, M Nilsson, A Svensson, Ljungberg, Allback, M Jonson (Magnus Svensson 72).
Poland: Dudek - Baszczynski (Klos 46), J Bak, Hajto, Stolarczyk, Szymkowiak (Burkhardt 76), Dawidowski, Zdebel, Kosowski (Zajac 64), Krzynowek, Wichniarek.

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	5	3	2	0	12	2	11
Hungary	6	3	2	1	13	4	11
Latvia	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Poland	5	2	1	2	7	4	7
San Marino	7	0	0	7	0	25	0

07.09.02 .....Latvia-Sweden 0-0
07.09.02 .....San Marino-Poland 0-2
12.10.02 .....Poland-Latvia 0-1
12.10.02 .....Sweden-Hungary 1-1
16.10.02 .....Hungary-San Marino 3-0
20.11.02 .....San Marino-Latvia 0-1
29.03.03 .....Poland-Hungary 0-0
02.04.03 .....Hungary-Sweden 1-2
02.04.03 .....Poland-San Marino 5-0
30.04.03 .....Latvia-San Marino 3-0
07.06.03 .....Hungary-Latvia 3-1
07.06.03 .....San Marino-Sweden 0-6
11.06.03 .....San Marino-Hungary 0-5
11.06.03 .....Sweden-Poland 3-0
06.09.03 .....Latvia-Poland
06.09.03 .....Sweden-San Marino
10.09.03 .....Latvia-Hungary
10.09.03 .....Poland-Sweden
11.10.03 .....Hungary-Poland
11.10.03 .....Sweden-Latvia

Group 5

June 7 - Reykjavik
Iceland 2 (H Sigurdsson 51, T Gudmundsson 90)
Faroe Islands 1 (R Jacobsen 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,038. **Ref:** Liba (Cze)
Iceland: Arason - L O Sigurdsson, Bergsson, Hreidarsson, T Gudjonsson, R Kristinsson, J K Gudjonsson, Vidarsson, I Sigurdsson (Gretarsson 76), E Gudjohnsen, H Sigurdsson (T Gudmundsson 76).
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - C Jacobsen, J Joensen, J R Jacobsen, Olsen, a Borg, Jann I Petersen (J Johnsson 62), Benjaminsen, R Jacobsen, John Petersen, av Flotum (Elttor 64).

June 7 - Glasgow
Scotland 1 (K Miller 69)
Germany 1 (Bobic 23)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 48,037. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Scotland: Douglas - Ross (McNamara 75), Pressley, Webster, Naysmith, Dailly, Devlin (Rae 60), Cameron, Lambert, K Miller (Thompson 90), Crawford.
Germany: Kahn - Friedrich, Ramelow, Worns, Frings, Ballack, Jeremies, Rau (Freier 57), Schneider (Kehl 86), Bobic, Klose (Neuville 74).

June 11 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 0
Germany 2 (Klose 89, Bobic 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,130. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - J Joensen, Johanessen, J R Jacobsen, Thorsteinsson, a Borg (Elttor 61), J Johnsson, Benjaminsen, R Jacobsen, John Petersen, C Jacobsen (Jann I Petersen 77).
Germany: Kahn (Rost 46) - Friedrich, Ramelow, Worns, Freier, Jeremies (Klose 65), Kehl, Rau (Hartmann 72), Schneider, Bobic, Neuville.

June 11 - Kaunas
Lithuania 0
Iceland 3 (T Gudjonsson 59, E Gudjohnsen 72, Hreidarsson 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** Corpodean (Rom)
Lithuania: Stauce - Semberas, Dedura, Zvirgzdauskas, Barasa (Maciulevicius 71), Skarbalius, Petrenka, Morinas, R Zutautas (Danilevicius 62), Jankauskas (Guscinas 77), Razanauskas. *Sent off: Semberas 86min.*
Iceland: Arason - L O Sigurdsson, Bergsson, Hreidarsson, T Gudjonsson, B Gunnarsson, R Kristinsson, J K Gudjonsson (Gretarsson 86), Vidarsson (I Sigurdsson 88), E Gudjohnsen, H Sigurdsson (T Gudmundsson 80).

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Iceland	5	3	0	2	9	5	9
Scotland	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Lithuania	6	2	1	3	4	9	7
Faroe Islands	5	0	1	4	4	10	1

07.09.02 .....Faroe Islands-Scotland 2-2
07.09.02 .....Lithuania-Germany 0-2
12.10.02 .....Iceland-Scotland 0-2
12.10.02 .....Lithuania-Faroe Islands 2-0
16.10.02 .....Germany-Faroe Islands 2-1
16.10.02 .....Iceland-Lithuania 3-0
29.03.03 .....Germany-Lithuania 1-1
29.03.03 .....Scotland-Iceland 2-1
02.04.03 .....Lithuania-Scotland 1-0
07.06.03 .....Iceland-Faroe Islands 2-1
07.06.03 .....Scotland-Germany 1-1
11.06.03 .....Faroe Islands-Germany 0-2
11.06.03 .....Lithuania-Iceland 0-3
20.08.03 .....Faroe Islands-Iceland
06.09.03 .....Iceland-Germany
06.09.03 .....Scotland-Faroe Islands
10.09.03 .....Faroe Islands-Lithuania
10.09.03 .....Germany-Scotland
11.10.03 .....Germany-Iceland
11.10.03 .....Scotland-Lithuania

Group 6

June 7 - Zaragoza
Spain 0
Greece 1 (Giannakopoulos 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)

Spain: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Puyol, Ivan Helguera, Raul Bravo, Marchena (Sergio 76), Valeron, Etxeberria (Joaquin 60), Raul, Vicente (De Pedro 59), Morientes.
Greece: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Dellas, Dabizas, Venetidis, Giannakopoulos, Zagorakis, Kapsis, Tsartas (Karagounis 37), Vryzas, Haristeas (Lakis 34). *Sent off: Venetidis 80min.*

June 7 - Lviv
Ukraine 4 (Horshkov 28, Shevchenko pen 66, 73, Federov 90)
Armenia 3 (Sarkisyan pen 14, 52, Petrosyan 74)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Albrecht (Ger)
Ukraine: Shutkov - Luzhnyi, Fedorov, Nesmachnyi, Popov (Kalinichenko 65), Zakarlyuka (Radchenko 59), Shevchenko, Vorobei, Horshkov, Voronin, Rebrov (Venhlynskyi 81).
Armenia: Berezovski - Partsykyan, K Dokhoyan, Hovsepyan, Vardanyan, Petrosyan (Bilibio 80), Voskanyan, R Hachatryan, Sarkisyan, Artavazd Karamian, Arman Karamian (A Harutyunyan 87).

June 11 - Athens
Greece 1 (Haristeas 86)
Ukraine 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Greece: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Fissas, Dabizas, Dellas, Kapsis, Zagorakis (Tsartas 71), Lakis (Choutos 66), Vryzas (Haristeas 46), Karagounis, Giannakopoulos.
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Nesmachnyi, Fedorov, Holovko, Tymoshchuk, Shevchuk, Husin, Zakarlyuka (Kalinichenko 89), Voronin (Pukanych 90), Shevchenko, Rebrov (Vorobei 61).

June 11 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 0
Spain 0
Att: 11,365. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
N Ireland: Taylor - Baird, A Hughes, McCartney, Kennedy, Griffin, Healy, Doherty (Toner 80), Johnson, Jones (McVeigh 76), Smith (Williams 90).
Spain: Casillas - Puyol, Marchena, Ivan Helguera, Juanfran, Sergio (Joaquin 66), Baraja, Etxeberria (De Pedro 79), Valeron, Vicente (Morientes 66), Raul.

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	6	4	0	2	6	4	12
Spain	6	3	2	1	10	3	11
Ukraine	6	2	3	1	10	8	9
Armenia	5	1	1	3	6	11	4
Northern Ireland	5	0	2	3	0	6	2

07.09.02 .....Armenia-Ukraine 2-2
07.09.02 .....Greece-Spain 0-2
12.10.02 .....Spain-Northern Ireland 3-0
12.10.02 .....Ukraine-Greece 2-0
16.10.02 .....Greece-Armenia 2-0
16.10.02 .....Northern Ireland-Ukraine 0-0
29.03.03 .....Armenia-Northern Ireland 1-0
29.03.03 .....Ukraine-Spain 2-2
02.04.03 .....Northern Ireland-Greece 0-2
02.04.03 .....Spain-Armenia 3-0
07.06.03 .....Spain-Greece 0-1
07.06.03 .....Ukraine-Armenia 4-3
11.06.03 .....Greece-Ukraine 1-0
11.06.03 .....Northern Ireland-Spain 0-0
06.09.03 .....Armenia-Greece
06.09.03 .....Ukraine-Northern Ireland
10.09.03 .....Northern Ireland-Armenia
10.09.03 .....Spain-Ukraine
11.10.03 .....Armenia-Spain
11.10.03 .....Greece-Northern Ireland

Group 7

June 7 - Skopje
Macedonia 3 (Sedloski pen 39, M Krstev 51, Stojkov 82)
Liechtenstein 1 (R Beck 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Jara (Cze)
Macedonia: Milosevski - Sumulikoski, Lazarevski, Sedloski, Vasoski, A Mitreski, Stojkov, Trajanov (Jancevski 60), Naumoski (Dimitrovski 46), Sakiri (Bajevski 55), M Krstev.
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Ospelt, Maierhofer (Wolfinger 88), D Hasler, Gigon, Gerster, Telser, D'Elia, M Beck (Vogt 88), M Frick, R Beck (Rohrer 79).

June 7 - Bratislava
Slovakia 0
Turkey 1 (Nihat 12)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Slovakia: Konig - Klimpl, Zeman, Hlinka (Vittek 46), V Labant, M Petras, Karhan (Mintal 71), Demo, Michalik (Kisel 77), Janocko, S Nemeth.
Turkey: Rustu - Fatih Akyel, Bulent, Alpay, Ergun, Tugay, Okan Buruk (Tayfun 58), Emre Belozoglu (Ibrahim Uzulmez 89), Basturk (Volkan 86), Nihat, Hakan Sukur.

June 11 - Middlesbrough
England 2 (Owen pen 62, 73)
Slovakia 1 (Janocko 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
England: James - Mills (Hargreaves 42), Southgate, Upson, Ashley Cole, P Neville, Gerrard, Lampard, Scholes, Owen, Rooney (Vassell 57).
Slovakia: Konig - Hanek, Zeman, M Petras, V Labant (Debnar 38), Zabavnik, Janocko, Demo (Mintal 54), Michalik, Vittek, S Nemeth (Reiter 75).

June 11 - Istanbul
Turkey 3 (Nihat 27, Gokdeniz 48, Hakan Sukur 60)
Macedonia 2 (Grozdanovski 24, Sakiri 28)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Rosetti (Ita)
Turkey: Rustu - Fatih Akyel, Alpay, Bulent, Ibrahim Uzulmez, Tugay, Tayfun (Okan Yilmaz 46), Ergun, Emre Belozoglu (Gokdeniz 43), Nihat, Hakan Sukur (Volkan 77).
Macedonia: Milosevski - Bozinovski (Toleski 73), Sedloski, A Mitreski, Vasoski, Grozdanovski (Nuhiji 55), Sumulikoski, Jancevski (Stankovski 70), Lazarevski, Stojkov, Sakiri.

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	6	5	0	1	14	5	15
England	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
Slovakia	6	2	0	4	8	8	6
Macedonia	6	1	2	3	9	11	5
Liechtenstein	5	0	1	4	2	15	1

07.09.02 .....Turkey-Slovakia 3-0
08.09.02 .....Liechtenstein-Macedonia 1-1
12.10.02 .....Macedonia-Turkey 1-2
12.10.02 .....Slovakia-England 1-2
16.10.02 .....England-Macedonia 2-2
16.10.02 .....Turkey-Liechtenstein 5-0
29.03.03 .....Liechtenstein-England 0-2
29.03.03 .....Macedonia-Slovakia 0-2
02.04.03 .....England-Turkey 2-0
02.04.03 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein 4-0
07.06.03 .....Macedonia-Liechtenstein 3-1
07.06.03 .....Slovakia-Turkey 0-1
11.06.03 .....England-Slovakia 2-1
11.06.03 .....Turkey-Macedonia 3-2
06.09.03 .....Liechtenstein-Turkey
06.09.03 .....Macedonia-England
10.09.03 .....England-Liechtenstein
10.09.03 .....Slovakia-Macedonia
11.10.03 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia
11.10.03 .....Turkey-England

Group 8

June 7 - Sofia
Bulgaria 2 (Berbatov 52, Todorov pen 72)
Belgium 2 (Stilian Petrov og 31, Clement 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Bulgaria: Zdravkov - Stankov, Kirilov, Stoyanov, I Petkov, Borimirov, Hristov (Manchev 73), Stilian Petrov, Dimitrov (Alexandrov 80), M Petrov, Berbatov (Todorov 54).
Belgium: De Vlieger - Deflandre, Simons, Van Buyten, Dheedene, Clement, Baseggio, Goor, Sonck (E Mpenza 75), Buffel, M Mpenza.

June 7 - Tallinn
Estonia 2 (Allas 22, Viikmae 30)
Andorra 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Juhos (Hun)
Estonia: Poom - Allas, Stepanov, Piiroja, U Rooba (Saviauk 48), Leetma, Haavistu (M Rooba 70), Kristal, Viikmae, Zahovaiko, Lindpere (Reinumae 89).
Andorra: Koldo - Escura, Txema, Fernandez, A Lima, I Lima, E Gonzalez (Fernando Silva 83), J Sanchez, Jimenez (Pujol 72), Sonejee, Ruiz Gonzalez.

June 11 - Gent
Belgium 3 (Goor 20, 68, Sonck 44)
Andorra 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Shmolik (Bls)
Belgium: De Vlieger - De Cock, Simons, Van Buyten, Dheedene (P Van der Heyden 79), Clement, Baseggio, Goor (Soetaers 83), Sonck, Buffel (Martens 73), M Mpenza.
Andorra: Koldo - Ayala, Txema, Jonas, A Lima, I Lima, Gonzalez (Alvarez 70), J Sanchez (Escura 58), Fernandez, Sonejee (Lucendo 81), Pujol.

June 11 - Tallinn
Estonia 0
Croatia 1 (N Kovac 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Estonia: Poom - Allas (Zahovaiko 83), Stepanov, Piiroja, U Rooba, Leetma, M Rooba (Reinumae 72), Kristal, Zelinski, Oper, Lindpere (Lemsalu 84).
Croatia: Pletikosa - D Simic (T Maric 61), Simunic, Babic (J Leko 74), Tomas, Zivkovic, Rapajic (Rosso 80), Srna, Prso, N Kovac, Olic.

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Croatia	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
Belgium	6	3	1	2	7	8	10
Estonia	6	2	2	2	4	2	8
Andorra	6	0	0	6	1	12	0

07.09.02 .....Belgium-Bulgaria 0-2
07.09.02 .....Croatia-Estonia 0-0
12.10.02 .....Andorra-Belgium 0-1
12.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Croatia 2-0
16.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Andorra 2-1
16.10.02 .....Estonia-Belgium 0-1
29.03.03 .....Croatia-Belgium 4-0
02.04.03 .....Croatia-Andorra 2-0
02.04.03 .....Estonia-Bulgaria 0-0
30.04.03 .....Andorra-Estonia 0-2
07.06.03 .....Bulgaria-Belgium 2-2
07.06.03 .....Estonia-Andorra 2-0
11.06.03 .....Belgium-Andorra 3-0
11.06.03 .....Estonia-Croatia 0-1
06.09.03 .....Andorra-Croatia
06.09.03 .....Bulgaria-Estonia
10.09.03 .....Andorra-Bulgaria
10.09.03 .....Belgium-Croatia
11.10.03 .....Belgium-Estonia
11.10.03 .....Croatia-Bulgaria

Group 9

June 7 - Helsinki
Finland 3 (Hyypia 19, Kolkka 45, Forssell 56)
Serbia & Montenegro 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 17,343. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
Finland: Jaaskelainen - Pasanen, Tihinen, Hyypia, Saarinen, Valakari, Vayrynen, Nurmela (Riihilahti 87), Kolkka (Kopteff 66), Litmanen, Forssell (Kuqi 80).
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric - Vidic, Mihajlovic, Krstajic, S Markovic, Mirkovic (N Kovacevic 80), Duljaj, Dmitrovic, Mijatovic (Vukic 46), Milosevic (Jestrovic 46), D Kovacevic. *Sent off: Mihajlovic 25min.*

June 11 - Baku
Azerbaijan 2 (G Gurbanov pen 86, Ismailov 90)
Serbia & Montenegro 1 (Boskovic 27)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Azerbaijan: Kramarenko - A Kerimov, Akhmedov, Emin Guliev, Agaev (Tagizade 85), R Musaev (Ismailov 60), M Gurbanov, Sadygov, K Guliev, S Aliyev, G Gurbanov (Yadullayev 90).
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric (Zilic 46) - N Djordjevic, Mirkovic, Krstajic, Njegus, Duljaj (Milosevic 87), Malbasa, Vukic, Boskovic, Mijatovic (N Kovacevic 68), D Kovacevic.

June 11 - Helsinki
Finland 0
Italy 2 (Totti 32, Del Piero 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 36,850. **Ref:** Siric (Cro)
Finland: Jaaskelainen - Pasanen, Tihinen, Hyypia, Saarinen, Vayrynen, Valakari (Riihilahti 82), Nurmela (Kopteff 69), Litmanen, Kolkka (Johansson 78), Forssell.
Italy: Buffon - Panucci, Nesta, Cannavaro (Legrottaglie 90), Zambrotta, Perrotta, Zanetti, Fiore (Oddo 83), Totti, Del Piero, Corradi (Delvecchio 85).

GROUP 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	4	4	0	0	10	1	12
Italy	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Finland	6	2	0	4	6	8	6
Serbia & M'negro	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Azerbaijan	6	1	1	4	4	14	4

07.09.02 .....Azerbaijan-Italy 0-2
07.09.02 .....Finland-Wales 0-2
12.10.02 .....Finland-Azerbaijan 3-0
12.10.02 .....Italy-Serbia & Montenegro* 1-1
16.10.02 .....Wales-Italy 2-1
16.10.02 .....Serbia & Montenegro*-Finland 2-0
20.11.02 .....Azerbaijan-Wales 0-2
12.02.03 .....Serbia & Montenegro-Azerbaijan 2-2
29.03.03 .....Italy-Finland 2-0
29.03.03 .....Wales-Azerbaijan 4-0
07.06.03 .....Finland-Serbia & Montenegro 3-0
11.06.03 .....Azerbaijan-Serbia & Montenegro 2-1
11.06.03 .....Finland-Italy 0-2
20.08.03 .....Serbia & Montenegro-Wales
06.09.03 .....Azerbaijan-Finland
06.09.03 .....Italy-Wales
10.09.03 .....Serbia & Montenegro-Italy
10.09.03 .....Wales-Finland
11.10.03 .....Italy-Azerbaijan
11.10.03 .....Wales-Serbia & Montenegro
**Serbia & Montenegro played first two qualifiers as Yugoslavia*

Group 10

June 7 - Dublin
Rep Ireland 2 (Robbie Keane 6, Aliaj og 90)
Albania 1 (Skela 8)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Mikulski (Pol)
Rep Ireland: Given - Carr, Breen, Cunningham, O'Shea, Holland, Kinsella (Carsley 55), Kilbane (Reid 76), Duff, Connolly (Doherty 65), Robbie Keane.
Albania: Strakosha (Becaj 78) - E Beqiri, Cipi, Aliaj, Hasi, K Duro, Lala, Skela, Murati (Bellai 58), Rraklli (Myrtaj 85), Tare.

June 7 - Basle
Switzerland 2 (Frei 14, 16)
Russia 2 (Ignashevich 24, pen 67)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 30,500. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
Switzerland: Stiel - Haas, P Muller (Henchoz 82), M Yakin, L Magnin (Berner 61), Cabanas, Celestini, Wicky (Vogel 69), H Yakin, Chapuisat, Frei.
Russia: Ovchinnikov - V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, Kovtun, Aldonin, Gusev, Yanovsky, Smertin, Semak (Evsikov 82), Karyaka (Bystrov 52), Popov (Sychev 46).

June 11 - Dublin
Rep Ireland 2 (Doherty 43, Robbie Keane 59)
Georgia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Rep Ireland: Given - Carr, Breen, Cunningham, O'Shea, Carsley, Healy (Kinsella 86), Holland, Kilbane, Robbie Keane, Doherty (Lee 89).
Georgia: Lomaia - Khizanishvili, Khizaneishvili, Kaladze, Burduli, Didava (Aleksidze 77), Rekhviashvili, Amisulashvili, Asatiani, Demetradze (Daraselia 61), S Arveladze.

June 11 - Geneva
Switzerland 3 (Haas 11, Frei 32, Cabanas 72)
Albania 2 (Lala 23, Skela pen 86)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
Switzerland: Stiel - Haas, M Yakin, Henchoz (Zwyssig 76), Berner, Cabanas, Vogel, Wicky (Spycher 64), H Yakin, Frei (Celestini 84), Chapuisat.
Albania: Strakosha - Beqiri, Cipi (Cana 46), Aliaj, Duro (Dragusha 73), Hasi, Lala, Skela, Bellai, Bushaj (Rraklli 63), Tare.

GROUP 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	6	3	3	0	12	7	12
Rep Ireland	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Russia	5	2	1	2	11	9	7
Albania	6	1	2	3	8	11	5
Georgia	5	1	1	3	3	8	4

07.09.02 .....Russia-Rep Ireland 4-2
08.09.02 .....Switzerland-Georgia 4-1
12.10.02 .....Albania-Switzerland 1-1
16.10.02 .....Rep Ireland-Switzerland 1-2
16.10.02 .....Russia-Albania 4-1
29.03.03 .....Albania-Russia 3-1
29.03.03 .....Georgia-Rep Ireland 1-2
02.04.03 .....Albania-Rep Ireland 0-0
02.04.03 .....Georgia-Switzerland 0-0
30.04.03 .....Georgia-Russia 1-0
07.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Albania 2-1
07.06.03 .....Switzerland-Russia 2-2
11.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Georgia 2-0
11.06.03 .....Switzerland-Albania 3-2
06.09.03 .....Georgia-Albania
06.09.03 .....Rep Ireland-Russia
10.09.03 .....Albania-Georgia
10.09.03 .....Russia-Switzerland
11.10.03 .....Russia-Georgia
11.10.03 .....Switzerland-Rep Ireland

● The 10 group winners qualify for the finals automatically; the 10 runners-up will play-off in five head-to-head, home and away ties, the winners of which also qualify.
● Portugal qualify automatically for the finals as hosts.

INTERNATIONALS

Saturday, May 31

May 31 - friendly
Gambia 4
Mauritania 1

May 31 - Tokyo - friendly
Japan 0
South Korea 1 (Ahn Jung-hwan 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 53,405. **Ref:** Mohd Salleh (Mly)
Japan: Narazaki - Akita, Narahashi, Hattori, Morioka, Alex, Ogasawara, K Nakata, Inamoto (Endo 65), Nakayama (Nagai 74), T Suzuki (Okubo 65).
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae (Kim Yong-dae 89) - Kim Tae-young, Park Choong-kyun, Lee Ki-hyung, Cho Byung-kuk, Yoo Sang-chul, Lee Eul-yong, Kim Nam-il, Choi Yong-soo (Ahn Jung-hwan 56), Seol Ki-hyeon (Wang Jung-hyun 90), Cha Doo-ri (Lee Chun-soo 59).

May 31 - Nairobi - friendly
Kenya 1 (Oliech 21)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Sam pen 7)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,000
Kenya: Francis - Mohammed, Isa, Mathenge, Muiruri (Owino 46), Oliech, Mulama (Muligree 75), Odede, Mambo, Chinjili (Mwala 68), Ochieng.
Trinidad & Tobago: Ince - Sancho, Carrington, Thomas, Saunders (A Pierre 88), A John, Edwards (Daniel 80), Spann, Scotland (Smith 78), Sam (N Pierre 72), Samuel (Jemmot 46).

May 31 - Dakar - friendly
Senegal 2 (S Camara 50, Diao 62)
Cape Verde Islands 1 (Carlos Morais 40)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Carlos Santos (GuB)
Senegal: Sylva - Kebe, Coly (Tall 46), P M Diop, Diatta, Diao, P B Diop (Moussa N'Diaye 75), Diouf (Niakhasso 81), H Camara, Niang (S Camara 46), Kamara (Diabang 46).

May 31 - friendly
Uganda 1
Tanzania 0

Sunday, June 1

June 1 - Wolfsburg - friendly
Germany 4 (Ramelow 41, Freier 53, Bobic 61, Rau 90)
Canada 1 (McKenna 20)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Germany: Rost (Butt 46) - Friedrich (Hinkel 46), Worns, Baumann (Rehmer 59), Rau, Kehl, Ramelow (Freier 46), Frings, Schneider (Hartmann 75), Bobic (Kuranyi 69), Lauth (Neuville 46).
Canada: Onstad - Nsaliwa (Fletcher 82), Fenwick, Pizzolitto, Hastings, Nash (Canizalez 77), Imhof, Dasovic, De Guzman, Stalteri, McKenna.

Tuesday, June 3

June 3 - Leicester - friendly
England 2 (Gerrard 35, J Cole 82)
Serbia & Montenegro 1 (Jestrovic 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,900. **Ref:** Allaerts (Blg)
England: James - Mills (Carragher 60), Southgate (Terry 46), Upson (Barry 84), Ashley Cole (Bridge 46), Gerrard (Hargreaves 46), P Neville (Beattie 87), Scholes (Jenas 46), Lampard (J Cole 60), Heskey (Vassell 60), Owen (Rooney 46).
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric (Zilic 66) - Mirkovic (N Djordjevic 46), Vidic (D Kovacevic 82), Stefanovic (Krstajic 50), S Markovic (Njegus 68), Duljaj (N Brnovic 46), N Kovacevic (Trobok 46), Dmitrovic (Malbasa 46), Sasa Ilic (Mijatovic 68), Vukic (Boskovic 46), Jestrovic (Milosevic 74).

June 3 - friendly
Guadeloupe 1
French Guiana 0

June 3 - Campobasso - friendly
Italy 2 (Corradi 31, Delvecchio 67)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,270. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Italy: Toldo - Oddo, Legrottaglie (Bonera 57), Cannavaro (Ferrari 46), Grosso (Birindelli 69), Perrotta (Tommasi 57), Ambrosini, Fiore, Miccoli (Di Natale 57), Di Vaio (Nervo 69), Corradi (Delvecchio 46).
N Ireland: Taylor (Carroll 55) - Baird, A Hughes, McCartney, Kennedy (Williams 55), Healy (Hamilton 76), Johnson (Toner 69), Griffin, Doherty (Elliott 87), McVeigh (Jones 55), Smith.

June 3 - Kampala - friendly
Uganda 3
Libya 2

Friday, June 6

June 6 - Poznan - friendly
Poland 3 (Wichniarek 2, Dawidowski 50, Krzynowek pen 82)
Kazakhstan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Poland: Dudek (Nalepa 46) - J Bak (Jop 46), Glowacki (Baszczynski 46), Hajto (Zielinski 74), Klos, Michal Zewlakow (Stolarczyk 46), Kosowski (Burkhardt 46), Krzynowek, Szymkowiak (Zajac 46), Kryszalowicz (Kuzba 46), Wichniarek (Dawidowski 46).
Kazakhstan: Novikov - Abdulin, Samchenko, Soloshenko, Artiemov (Nurdaletov 78), Baltiev, Kotov (Mukanov 70), Lovchev, Musin, Lunev (Finonchenko 59), Tarasov.

June 6 - Braga - friendly
Portugal 0
Paraguay 0
Att: 17,000. **Ref:** Kasnaferis (Gre)
Portugal: Ricardo - Paulo Ferreira (Silas 75), Fernando Meira, Fernando Couto, Rui Jorge, Luis Loureiro (Deco 46), Maniche, Rui Costa, Figo, Pauleta (Helder Postiga 60), Sergio Conceicao.
Paraguay: Villar - Caniza, Gamarra, Da Silva, Toledo, Bonet, J C Caceres, A Ortiz, Morinigo (Britez 69), Samudio (Bareiro 76), Cuevas (Irala 86).

Saturday, June 7

June 7 - Miami, USA - friendly
Venezuela 2 (Urdaneta 13, Arango 35)
Honduras 1 (Velasquez 44)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Terry (USA)
Venezuela: Angelucci - Rey, Rojas, Vallenilla, Alvarado (Cichero 62), Jimenez, L Vera, Paez (Casseres 41), Urdaneta (Villafraz 70), Noriega, Arango (G Perez 86).
Honduras: Medina - S Caballero (M Palacios 60), Cruz (Oliva 89), Beata, R Morales (Jairo Martinez 68), Alvarez (J Suazo 65), Turcios, L Pineda (Javier Martinez 77), C Santamaria (E Martinez 61), Velasquez, Hernandez.

Sunday, June 8

June 8 - Madrid - friendly
Colombia 0
Ecuador 0
Att: 12,000. **Ref:** Rubinos Perez (Spa)
Colombia: Martinez - Vallejo, I Cordoba, Yepes, Arizala (Ramos 73), Diaz (Acosta 88), Caballero (Rivas 46), Patino, Hernandez, Murillo (Alcazar 55), Becerra.
Ecuador: J Espinoza - De la Cruz, I Hurtado, G Espinoza, George, Mendez, Obregon, Ayovi, Chala, Baldeon (C Tenorio 46), O Tenorio (Poroso 71). *Sent off: G Espinoza 68min.*

June 8 - San Jose - friendly
Costa Rica 1 (R Fonseca 88)
Chile 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Pineda (Hnd)
Costa Rica: R Gonzalez - Wright, Marin, L Gonzalez, C Castro (Chinchilla 58), G Martinez, M Solis (R Fonseca 73), Centeno, Soto (A Castro 46), Bryce (Vallejos 81), Saborio (Scott 57).
Chile: N Tapia - Alvarez, R Rojas, Contreras, Perez, Melendez, Maldonado, B Gonzalez (M Gonzalez 75), Mirosevic (Nunez 46), Martel, H Tapia. *Sent off: Alvarez 83min.*

June 8 - Osaka - Kirin Cup
Japan 1 (Akita 55)
Argentina 4 (Saviola 30, Zanetti 45, Romeo 79, M Rodriguez 82)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 42,508. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Japan: Narazaki - Akita, Hattori, Morioka, Narahashi, H Nakata, Ogasawara (Alex 46), K Nakata (Fukunishi 46), Inamoto, Nakayama (Okubo 46), T Suzuki (Nagai 65).
Argentina: Cavallero - Zanetti, Quiroga, Coloccini, Placente, Castroman (Heinze 36), Cambiasso, Solari (M Rodriguez 76), Aimar (Riquelme 63), Galletti, Saviola (Romeo 72).

June 8 - Seoul - friendly
South Korea 0
Uruguay 2 (Hornos 12, Abreu 53)
HT: 0-1
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Kim Tae-young, Cho Byung-kuk, Park Choong-kyun (Lee Young-pyo 46), Lee Ki-hyung (Song Chong-gug 62), Yoo Sang-chul, Kim Nam-il, Lee Eul-yong (Cho Jae-jin 58), Cha Doo-ri, Choi Yong-soo (Wang Jung-hyun 68), Seol Ki-hyeon (Lee Chun-soo 46).
Uruguay: Munua - Bizera, Gonzalez (Aguiar 60), Lago, Lembo, Sosa, Abreu (Estoyanoff 82), Forlan (Peralta 46), Hornos (Perrone 90), Liguera, Recoba (Martinez 71).

June 8 - Richmond - friendly
United States 2 (Klein 20, Kirovski 65)
New Zealand 1 (Coveny 23)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 9,116. **Ref:** Liu (Can)
USA: Hahnemann (Cannon 46) - Vanney, Bocanegra (Gibbs 63), Berhalter, Cherundolo, Armas, Lewis, Klein (Convey 76), Stewart (Martino 67), Twellman (Beasley 88), Kirovski.
New Zealand: Utting - Oughton, Zoricich, Vicelich, Nelsen (Hay 75), Elliott (De Gregorio 85), Davis (Mulligan 80), Hickey, Burton, Killen (Smeltz 75), Coveny.

Tuesday, June 10

June 10 - Gaborone - friendly
Botswana 0
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Att: 5,000
Trinidad & Tobago: Williams - Carrington, Thomas, Sancho, Spann (Smith 88), Mulraine, Edwards, Sam (Scotland 80), N Pierre, Saunders, Daniel.

June 10 - Lisbon - friendly
Portugal 4 (Jorge Andrade 7, Fernando Couto 13, Helder Postiga 40, 47)
Bolivia 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Kenan (Isr)
Portugal: Ricardo (Quim 59) - Paulo Ferreira (Silas 62), Fernando Couto (Beto 56), Jorge Andrade, Rui Jorge (Rogerio Matias 46), Maniche (Luis Loureiro 46), Tiago, Sergio Conceicao, Hugo Viana, Helder Postiga, Pauleta (Ricardo Quaresma 46).
Bolivia: H Suarez - Hoyos, J M Pena, Raldes, Arana, Alvarez, R Garcia, Calustro (Loayza 89), Mojica (Rojas 46), Roger Suarez (D Pena 68), J A Castillo (Andaveris 60).

Wednesday, June 11

June 11 - New Jersey, USA - friendly
Ecuador 2 (Kaviedes 26, Tenorio 64)
Peru 2 (Silva 41, Mendoza 52)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Terry (USA)
Ecuador: J Espinoza - De la Cruz, Hurtado, G Espinoza, George, Obregon, Mendez (Aguinaga), Ayovi, Chala (Saritama), Kaviedes (Ordonez), O Tenorio (C Tenorio).
Peru: Delgado - Jorge Soto, Rebosio, Jose Soto, Hidalgo, Jayo (Ciurlizza), Zegarra (Galliquio), Carmona (Olcese), Farfan, Silva, Mendoza (Corcuera).

June 11 - San Pedro Sula - friendly
Honduras 1 (Jose Pineda 13)
Chile 2 (Mirosevic pen 44, B Gonzalez 60)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Burgos (Gtm)
Honduras: Coello - W Palacios, Rosales (Javier Martinez 46), Vallecillos, M Palacios, S Caballero, Bonilla, Jose Pineda (Guifarro 80), Oliva (C Santamaria 62), E Martinez, Jairo Martinez (S Martinez 46).
Chile: N Tapia - J Acuna, R Rojas, Contreras, Perez, B Gonzalez, Maldonado (Cordova 65), Mirosevic (Soto 65), D Gonzalez, H Tapia, Marcel (Olarrara 85).

June 11 - Saitama - Kirin Cup
Japan 0
Paraguay 0
Att: 59,891. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
Japan: Narazaki - Yamada, Miyamoto, Tsuboi, Alex, Fukunishi (K Nakata 46), H Nakata, Nakamura, Endo, Takahara, Okubo.
Paraguay: Tavarelli - Toledo, Maldonado, J C Caceres, Da Silva, Morinigo (Irala 84), Bonet, A Ortiz, Britez (Sanabria 46), Samudio (Bareiro 59), Cuevas (Lopez 85).

June 11 - Abuja - friendly
Nigeria 0
Brazil 3 (Gil 34, Luis Fabiano 38, Adriano 81)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Quartey (Gha)
Nigeria: Enyeama - Enakharire, Ekong, Orjinta (Olofinjana 46), Udeze, Okoronkwo, Lawal, Okocha, Kanu (Nwuguru 85), Utaka, Aiyegbeni (Oboda 46).
Brazil: Dida - Belletti (Eduardo Costa 75), Lucio, Juan (Fabio Luciano 86), Kleber (Gilberto 85), Emerson Ferreira, Kleberson, Ricardinho, Ronaldinho, Luis Fabiano (Adriano 71), Gil (Carlos Adriano 71).

June 11 - Seoul - friendly
South Korea 0
Argentina 1 (Saviola 44)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Rungklay (Tha)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Kim Tae-young, Cho Byung-kuk, Lee Young-pyo, Song Chong-gug (Lee Ki-hyung 46; Choi Sung-yong 64), Yoo Sang-chul, Kim Nam-il, Lee Eul-yong (Wang Jung-hyun 46), Cha Doo-ri (Choi Tae-uk 58), Lee Chun-soo, Cho Jae-jin.
Argentina: Cavallero - Coloccini, Quiroga, Placente, Zanetti, Heinze, Cambiasso, Aimar (Riquelme 78), Solari (Castroman 82), Galletti (M Rodriguez 33), Saviola (Romeo 85).

Friday, June 13

June 13 - Accra - friendly
Ghana 1 (Appiah 60)
Kenya 3 (Mambo 18, 44, Oliech 38)
HT: 0-3

Saturday, June 14

June 14 - Port Moresby - friendly
Papua New Guinea 3 (Posman pen, Malus, Lepani)
Solomon Islands 5 (Samani, Menapi 2 (1 pen), Mehau, B Suri pen)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Bayung (PNG)

June 14 - Port Elizabeth - friendly
South Africa 2 (Manyathela 20, pen 71)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Coyle og 24)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Mpofu (Bot)
South Africa: Baloyi (Arendse 61) - Coyle, Molefe, Lekgwathi, Mabizela, Mendu (T Mokoena 53), Sapula (Mhlongo 84), Fredericks, C Mazibuko, Manyathela, D Radebe.
Trinidad & Tobago: Ince - Sancho, Carrington, Thomas, Daniels (A Pierre 80), Saunders, Edwards, Spann, Sam (A John 73), Mulraine (Jemmot 66), N Pierre (Scotland 75). *Sent off: Sancho 70min.*

Sunday, June 22

June 22 - Carson, USA - friendly
Honduras 2 (Jairo Martinez 50, Alvarez 54)
Guatemala 1 (Acevedo 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,023. **Ref:** Saheli (USA)
Honduras: Medina - R Morales (E Martinez 46), Beata, Vallecillo, W Palacios, Hernandez (Javier Martinez 46), Guifarro, De Leon (Oliva 67), C Santamaria (Alvarez 46), S Martinez (Jairo Martinez 46), Velasquez (Castro 82).
Guatemala: E Estrada - Morales, Cedeno, M Gonzalez, E Gonzalez (Valencia 46), Aguirre (Thompson 59), Monterroso (Garcia 90), Romero (Machon 46), Ramirez (Rodriguez 60), Arenas (Ruiz 46), Acevedo (Mendoza 76).

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2004 QUALIFIERS

Group 1

June 7 - Abuja
Nigeria 4 (Aiyegbeni 10, 17, N Kanu 22, 35)
Malawi 1 (Kanyenda 7)
HT: 4-1. **Ref:** Ndoye (Sen)

June 21 - Benin City
Nigeria 2 (Kalu 57, Odemwigie pen 62)
Angola 2 (Figueiredo 9, Akwa 55)
HT: 0-1
Sent off: Udeze (Nigeria)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
Malawi	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Angola	3	0	2	1	2	3	2

08.09.02 .....Angola-Nigeria 0-0
12.10.02 .....Malawi-Angola 1-0
29.03.03 .....Malawi-Nigeria.....0-1
07.06.03 .....Nigeria-Malawi.....4-1
21.06.03 .....Nigeria-Angola 2-2
04.07.03 .....Angola-Malawi
Djibouti withdrew

Group 2

June 7 - Niamey
Niger 1 (Tankary 69)
Guinea 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Wellington (Gha)

June 8 - Monrovia
Liberia 1 (Mennoh 57)
Ethiopia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Aguidissou (Ben)
Sent off: Shanko (Ethiopia)

June 21 - Accra, Ghana
Liberia 1 (Prince Daye 20)
Guinea 2 (Soulemane 11, 50)
HT: 1-1

June 22 - Addis Abeba
Ethiopia 2 (Azad og 15, Kidanu 51)
Niger 0
HT: 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	5	3	0	2	7	3	9
Ethiopia	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
Niger	5	2	0	3	4	6	6
Liberia	5	2	0	3	3	6	6

07.09.02 .....Niger-Ethiopia 3-1
08.09.02 .....Guinea-Liberia 3-0
12.10.02 .....Liberia-Niger 1-0
13.10.02 .....Ethiopia-Guinea 1-0
30.03.03 .....Ethiopia-Liberia 1-0
30.03.03 .....Guinea-Niger 2-0
07.06.03 .....Niger-Guinea 1-0
08.06.03 .....Liberia-Ethiopia 1-0
21.06.03 .....Liberia-Guinea 1-2
22.06.03 .....Ethiopia-Niger 2-0
06.07.03 .....Guinea-Ethiopia
06.07.03 .....Niger-Liberia

Group 3

June 7 - Lusaka
Zambia 2 (Milanzi 44, 81)
Tanzania 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Chilinda (Mwi)
Sent off: Kaniki (Tanzania) 73min

June 8 - Cotonou
Benin 3 (Tchmogo pen 55, 72, Ogoudiyi 90)
Sudan 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Coulibaly (Mli)

June 21 - Lusaka
Zambia 1 (Chalwe 72)
Sudan 1 (Dalag 23)
HT: 0-1

June 22 - Dar-es-Salaam
Tanzania 0
Benin 1 (Kabirou 66)
HT: 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	5	3	2	0	6	2	11
Benin	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Sudan	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Tanzania	5	0	0	5	1	10	0

08.09.02 .....Benin-Tanzania 4-0
08.09.02 .....Sudan-Zambia 0-1
12.10.02 .....Tanzania-Sudan 1-2
12.10.02 .....Zambia-Benin 1-1
29.03.03 .....Sudan-Benin 3-0
29.03.03 .....Tanzania-Zambia 0-1
07.06.03 .....Zambia-Tanzania 2-0
08.06.03 .....Benin-Sudan 3-0
21.06.03 .....Zambia-Sudan 1-1
22.06.03 .....Tanzania-Benin 0-1
06.07.03 .....Benin-Zambia
06.07.03 .....Sudan-Tanzania

Group 4

June 7 - Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso 4 (Dagano 6, 8, Toure 34, Minoungou 88)
Mozambique 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Ould Mohamed (Mra)

June 8 - Bangui
Central African Republic 0
Congo 0
Ref: Hissene (Chd)

June 21 - Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso 3 (Toure pen 54, Ouedraogo 61, Minoungou 75)
Congo 0
HT: 0-0

June 22 - Maputo
Mozambique 1 (Jossias pen 73)
Central African Republic 0
HT: 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burkina Faso	5	3	1	1	9	2	10
Congo	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Mozambique	5	2	1	2	3	8	7
Cent Af Rep	5	0	2	3	3	6	2

08.09.02 .....Congo-Burkina Faso 0-0
09.09.02 .....Central African Rep-Mozambique ...1-1
13.10.02 .....Burkina Faso-Central African Rep...2-1
13.10.02 .....Mozambique-Congo 0-3
30.03.03 .....Mozambique-Burkina Faso 1-0
04.05.03 .....Congo-Central African Rep 2-1
07.06.03 .....Burkina Faso-Mozambique 4-0
08.06.03 .....Central African Rep-Congo 0-0
21.06.03 .....Burkina Faso-Congo 3-0
22.06.03 .....Mozambique-Central African Rep ...1-0
06.07.03 .....Central African Rep-Burkina Faso
06.07.03 .....Congo-Mozambique

Group 5

June 6 - Nouakchott
Mauritania 0
Kenya 0
Ref: Keita (Gui)

June 8 - Lome
Togo 5 (Sania 2, Toure 23, 32, De Souza 72, Adebayor 78)
Cape Verde Islands 2 (Aguiar 6, Carlos Morais 26)
HT: 3-2. **Ref:** Lassina Pare (BuF)

**June 21 - Praia*
Cape Verde Islands 3 (Lito 65, Carlos Morais pen 76, 82)
Mauritania 0
HT: 0-0
**Match abandoned after 85mins when Mauritania were reduced to six players; result stood*

June 22 - Lome
Togo 2 (Paria 23, pen 57)
Kenya 0
HT: 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kenya	5	3	1	1	8	2	10
Cape Verde Is	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Togo	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Mauritania	5	0	1	4	0	10	1

06.09.02 .....Mauritania-Cape Verde Islands.....0-2
07.09.02 .....Kenya-Togo 3-0
12.10.02 .....Cape Verde Islands-Kenya 0-1
12.10.02 .....Togo-Mauritania 1-0
29.03.03 .....Cape Verde Islands-Togo 2-1
29.03.03 .....Kenya-Mauritania 4-0
06.06.03 .....Mauritania-Kenya 0-0
08.06.03 .....Togo-Cape Verde Islands 5-2
21.06.03 .....Cape Verde Islands-Mauritania.....3-0
22.06.03 .....Togo-Kenya 2-0
05.07.03 .....Kenya-Cape Verde Islands
05.07.03 .....Mauritania-Togo

Group 6

June 7 - Bamako
Mali 1 (S Coulibaly 20)
Eritrea 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Aboubacar (IvC)

June 7 - Victoria
Seychelles 2 (Balde pen 75, Zialor 81)
Zimbabwe 1 (A Ndlovu 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Langwenya (Swa)

June 21 - Asmara
Eritrea 1 (Fessehaye 62)
Seychelles 0
HT: 0-0

June 22 - Bamako
Mali 0
Zimbabwe 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mali	5	3	1	1	6	1	10
Zimbabwe	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Seychelles	5	2	0	3	4	8	6
Eritrea	5	1	0	4	1	5	3

08.09.02 .....Seychelles-Eritrea 1-0
08.09.02 .....Zimbabwe-Mali 1-0
12.10.02 .....Eritrea-Zimbabwe 0-1
13.10.02 .....Mali-Seychelles 3-0
30.03.03 .....Eritrea-Mali 0-2
30.03.03 .....Zimbabwe-Seychelles 3-1
07.06.03 .....Mali-Eritrea 1-0
07.06.03 .....Seychelles-Zimbabwe 2-1
21.06.03 .....Eritrea-Seychelles 1-0
22.06.03 .....Mali-Zimbabwe 0-0
05.07.03 .....Seychelles-Mali
05.07.03 .....Zimbabwe-Eritrea

Group 7

June 8 - Malabo
Equatorial Guinea 2 (Mba 22, Mangongo 50)
Gabon 1 (Dissikadie 43)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Buenkadila (DRC)

June 8 - Casablanca
Morocco 1 (Chippo 25)
Sierra Leone 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Abd El Fatah (Egy)

June 20 - Rabat
Morocco 2 (El Yaacoubi 22, Jaziri 75)
Gabon 0
HT: 1-0

June 22 - Freetown
Sierra Leone 2 (Kallon 71, Kabbah 90)
Equatorial Guinea 0
HT: 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco	5	4	1	0	9	0	13
Sierra Leone	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
Gabon	5	1	0	4	5	7	3
Equatorial Guinea	5	1	0	4	3	15	3

07.09.02 .....Gabon-Morocco 0-1
08.09.02 .....Equatorial Guinea-Sierra Leone 1-3
12.10.02 .....Sierra Leone-Gabon 2-0
13.10.02 .....Morocco-Equatorial Guinea 5-0
29.03.03 .....Gabon-Equatorial Guinea 4-0
29.03.03 .....Sierra Leone-Morocco 0-0
08.06.03 .....Equatorial Guinea-Gabon 2-1
08.06.03 .....Morocco-Sierra Leone 1-0
20.06.03 .....Morocco-Gabon 2-0
22.06.03 .....Sierra Leone-Equatorial Guinea 2-0
06.07.03 .....Equatorial Guinea-Morocco
06.07.03 .....Gabon-Sierra Leone

Group 8

June 7 - Dakar
Senegal 3 (Diatta 8, H Camara 36, Diouf 73)
Gambia 1 (Sillah 63)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Guirat (Tun)
Sent off: Diatta (Senegal) 76min

June 14 - Dakar
Senegal 3 (Diouf pen 26, H Camara 66, 70)
Lesotho 0
HT: 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
Gambia	3	1	1	1	7	3	4
Lesotho	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

08.09.02 .....Lesotho-Senegal 0-1
13.10.02 .....Gambia-Lesotho 6-0
30.03.03 .....Gambia-Senegal 0-0
07.06.03 .....Senegal-Gambia 3-1
14.06.03 .....Senegal-Lesotho 3-0
06.07.03 .....Lesotho-Gambia
Sao Tome e Principe withdrew

Group 9

June 7 - Gaborone
Botswana 0
Libya 1 (Masli 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Nunkoo (Mrs)

June 8 - Kinshasa
DR Congo 2 (Piana 18, Musasa 71)
Swaziland 0
HT: 1-0

June 22 - Kinshasa
DR Congo 2 (Masudi 29, Mpiana 83)
Libya 1 (Hamed 49)
HT: 1-0

June 22 - Somhlolo
Swaziland 3 (Siza Dlamini 7, 25, Sibusiso Dlamini 18)
Botswana 2 (Mogaladi 41, Kolagano 56)
HT: 3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DR Congo	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Swaziland	5	2	2	1	6	6	8
Libya	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Botswana	5	0	2	3	2	6	2

07.09.02 .....Botswana-Swaziland 0-0
08.09.02 .....Libya-DR Congo 3-2
13.10.02 .....DR Congo-Botswana 2-0
13.10.02 .....Swaziland-Libya 2-1
30.03.03 .....Libya-Botswana 0-0
30.03.03 .....Swaziland-DR Congo 1-1
07.06.03 .....Botswana-Libya 0-1
08.06.03 .....DR Congo-Swaziland 2-0
22.06.03 .....DR Congo-Libya 2-1
22.06.03 .....Swaziland-Botswana 3-2
05.07.03 .....Botswana-DR Congo
05.07.03 .....Libya-Swaziland

Group 10

June 8 - Port Said
Egypt 7 (Hossam pen 7, 22, T El-Sayed 18, Hamza 53, Emam 61, A Hassan 72, 89)
Mauritius 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Abdalla (Lby)

June 20 - Port Said
Egypt 6 (Al-Tabei 1, Bilal 9, 24, 56, 83, Hossam 41)
Madagascar 0
HT: 4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	4	3	0	1	14	1	9
Madagascar	3	2	0	1	2	6	6
Mauritius	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

07.09.02 .....Madagascar-Egypt 1-0
12.10.02 .....Mauritius-Madagascar 0-1
29.03.03 .....Mauritius-Egypt 0-1
08.06.03 .....Egypt-Mauritius 7-0
20.06.03 .....Egypt-Madagascar 6-0
06.07.03 .....Madagascar-Mauritius
Guinea-Bissau withdrew

Group 11

June 8 - Abidjan
Ivory Coast 6 (Drogba 7, 27, 32, Bakari 56, 78, Dindane 70)
Burundi 1 (Shabani 88)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Monteiro Duarte (CVI)

June 22 - Polokwane
South Africa 2 (Bartlett 21, Nomvete 65)
Ivory Coast 1 (Kalou 41)
HT: 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
South Africa	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Burundi	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

08.09.02 .....Ivory Coast-South Africa 0-0
13.10.02 .....South Africa-Burundi 2-0
30.03.03 .....Burundi-Ivory Coast 0-1
08.06.03 .....Ivory Coast-Burundi 6-1
22.06.03 .....South Africa-Ivory Coast 2-1
05.07.03 .....Burundi-South Africa

Group 12

June 7 - Windhoek
Namibia 2 (Diergaardt 24, Hummel pen 76)
Chad 1 (Hussein 35)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Bernardo Colembi (Ang)

June 20 - Blida
Algeria 1 (Kraouche 5)
Namibia 0
HT: 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Chad	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Namibia	4	1	0	3	2	5	3

07.09.02 .....Namibia-Algeria 0-1
11.10.02 .....Algeria-Chad 4-1
30.03.03 .....Chad-Namibia 2-0
07.06.03 .....Namibia-Chad 2-1
20.06.03 .....Algeria-Namibia 1-0
06.07.03 .....Chad-Algeria

Group 13

June 7 - Kampala
Uganda 0
Rwanda 1 (Gatete 40)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Alemu (Eth)

June 22 - Kumasi
Ghana 1 (C Amoah 84)
Uganda 1 (Bajoba 16)
HT: 0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uganda	4	1	2	1	2	2	5
Ghana	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Rwanda	3	1	1	1	3	4	4

07.09.02 .....Uganda-Ghana 1-0
13.10.02 .....Ghana-Rwanda.....4-2
29.03.03 .....Rwanda-Uganda 0-0
07.06.03 .....Uganda-Rwanda 0-1
22.06.03 .....Ghana-Uganda 1-1
06.07.03 .....Rwanda-Ghana

● The 13 group winners qualify for the finals, along with hosts Tunisia and holders Cameroon.
● The 16th finals place will be awarded to the best second-placed finisher from Groups 2 to 9. This will be decided first by the highest number of points, then goal difference, then highest number of goals scored and, if necessary, a play-off.

LG CUP

In Nigeria

May 30 - Abuja - semi-final
Cameroon 2
Iran 1
HT: 1-1

May 30 - Abuja - semi-final
Nigeria 3 (Aiyegbeni pen 49, 71, Enakhire 82)
Ghana 1 (Agyema 2)
HT: 0-1
Nigeria: Etafia - Yobo, Udeze, George, Ikong (Usim), Yaro Yaro, Ugochukwu (Menabo), Aiyegbeni, Obodo (Godwin), Enakhire, Ajuwa.
Ghana: E Ansah - Frimpong, Gambo, Takwe (Baffoe), Tairo, Papoye, Aba, Eduse, Agyema (Theophilus), Y Ansah, Antwe.

June 1 - Lagos - Final
Nigeria 3 (Yobo 95, Aiyegbeni 97, Yaro Yaro 114)
Cameroon 0
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0

GOLD CUP 2003

Finals schedule

Group A

In Mexico City

13.07.03 .....Mexico v Brazil
15.07.03 .....Brazil v Honduras
17.07.03 .....Honduras v Mexico

Group B

In Miami

13.07.03 .....Jamaica v Colombia
15.07.03 .....Guatemala v Jamaica
17.07.03 .....Colombia v Guatemala

Group C

In Foxboro

12.07.03 .....United States v El Salvador
14.07.03 .....Martinique v United States
16.07.03 .....El Salvador v Martinique

Group D

In Foxboro

12.07.03 .....Costa Rica v Canada
14.07.03 .....Canada v Cuba
16.07.03 .....Cuba v Costa Rica

Quarter-finals

19.07.03 .....Group C 1st v Group D 2nd .....(QF1)*
19.07.03 .....Group D 1st v Group C 2nd .....(QF2)*
Both Foxboro

19.07.03 .....Group B 1st v Group A 2nd .....(QF4)*
Miami

20.07.03 .....Group A 1st v Group B 2nd .....(QF3)*
Mexico City

**United States and Mexico, should they qualify, will compete in QF1 and QF3 respectively, regardless of whether they finish first or second in their group. Quarter-final pairings will remain the same but will be repositioned as required*

Semi-finals

23.07.03 .....Winners QF1 v Winners QF4
Miami

24.07.03 .....Winners QF2 v Winners QF3
Mexico City

Third-place play-off

26.07.03 .....*In Miami*

Final

27.07.03 .....*In Mexico City*

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st qual rnd draw

Pyunik Yerevan (Arm) v KR Reykjavik (Ice) (match 1)
Serif Tiraspol (Mol) v Flora Tallinn (Est) (2)
HB Torshavn (Far) v FBK Kaunas (Lit) (3)
BATE Borisov (Bls) v Bohemians (Ire) (4)
Vardar (Mac) v Barry Town (Wal) (5)
Grevenmacher (Lux) v Leotar (Bos) (6)
HJK Helsinki (Fin) v Glentoran (NI) (7)
Sliema Wanderers (Mlt) v Skonto Riga (Lat) (8)
Omonia Nicosia (Cyp) v Irtysh Pavlodar (Kaz) (9)
Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) v SK Tirana (Alb) (10)
1st legs, July 16; 2nd legs, July 23

2nd qual rnd draw

FC Copenhagen (Den) v Winners match 8
CSKA Moscow (Rus) v Winners match 5
Maribor (Sln) v Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)
MSK Zilina (Slk) v Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr)
MTK (Hun) v Winners match 7
Partizan Belgrade (Ser) v Djurgardens (Swe)
Rapid Bucharest (Rom) v Anderlecht (Blg)
Winners match 1 v CSKA Sofia (Bul)
Winners match 2 v Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
Winners match 3 v Celtic (Sco)
Winners match 4 v Rosenborg (Nor)
Winners match 6 v Slavia Prague (Cze)
Winners match 10 v Grazer AK (Aut)
Wisla Krakow (Pol) v Winners match 9
1st legs, July 30; 2nd legs, August 6

3rd qual rnd – direct qualifiers

AEK Athens (Gre), Ajax (Hol), Austria Wien (Aut), Benfica (Por), Borussia Dortmund (Ger), Celta Vigo (Spa), Chelsea (Eng), Club Brugge (Blg), Deportivo La Coruna (Spa), Galatasaray (Tur), Grasshopper (Swi), Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr), Lazio (Ita), Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus), Marseille (Fra), Newcastle United (Eng), Rangers (Sco), Sparta Prague (Cze)

Group stage – direct qualifiers

Arsenal (Eng), Bayern Munich (Ger), Besiktas (Tur), Internazionale (Ita), Juventus (Ita), Lyon (Fra), Manchester United (Eng), Milan (Ita), Monaco (Fra), Olympiakos (Gre), Panathinaikos (Gre), FC Porto (Por), PSV Eindhoven (Hol), Real Madrid (Spa), Real Sociedad (Spa), Stuttgart (Ger)

UEFA CUP

Qual rnd draw

AIK Stockholm (Swe) v Fylkir (Ice)
APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) v Derry City (Ire)
Artmedia Petrzalka (Slk) v F91 Dudelange (Lux)
Atyrau (Kaz) v Levski Sofia (Bul)
Banants (Arm) v Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr)
Birkirkara (Mlt) v Ferencvaros (Hun)
Brondby (Den) v Shirak Gyumri (Arm)
Cementarnica (Mac) v Katowice (Pol)
Coleraine (NI) v Uniao Leiria (Por)
Cwmbran Town (Wal) v Maccabi Haifa (Isr)
Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) v Metalurgs Liepaja (Lat)
Dinamo Tirana (Alb) v Lokeren (Blg)
Ekranas (Lit) v Debrecen (Hun)
Etzella Ettelbruck (Lux) v Kamen Ingrad (Cro)
Farum (Den) v Tallinna VMK (Est)
Groclin Grodzisk (Pol) v Atlantas (Lit)
FC Haka (Fin) v Hajduk Split (Cro)
Karnten (Aut) v Grindavik (Ice)
Lens (Fra) v Torpedo Kutaisi (Geo)
Levadia Maardu (Est) v Varteks (Cro)
Litex Lovech (Bul) v Zimbru Chisinau (Mol)
Malmo (Swe) v Portadown (NI)
Manchester City (Eng) v Total Network Solutions (Wal)
Matador Puchov (Slk) v Sioni Bolnisi (Geo)
Molde (Nor) v Kl Klaksvik (Far)
MyPa (Fin) v Young Boys (Swi)
Neman (Bls) v Steaua Bucharest (Rom)
NSI Runavik (Far) v Lyn Oslo (Nor)
OB Odense (Den) v Dinamo Minsk (Bls)
Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln) v Shelbourne (Ire)
Publikum (Sln) v Belasica (Mac)
Red Star Belgrade (Ser) v Nistru Otaci (Mol)
Santa Coloma (And) v Esbjerg (Den)
Sarajevo (Bos) v Sartid (Ser)
Torpedo Moscow (Rus) v Domagnano (SaM)
Vaduz (Lie) v Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (Ukr)
Valletta (Mlt) v Neuchatel Xamax (Swi)
Ventspils (Lat) v Wisla Plock (Pol)
Viktoria Zizkov (Cze) v Zhenis Astana (Kaz)
Vllaznia (Alb) v Dundee (Sco)
Zeljeznicar (Bos) v Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp)
1st legs, August 14; 2nd legs, August 28

INTERTOTO CUP

1st rnd, 1st legs

June 21: Bangor (Wal) 0 Gloria Bistrita (Rom) 1; Brno (Cze) 1 Kotaik (Arm) 0; Dacia Chisinau (Mol) 4 Gl Gotu (Far) 1; Dinaburg (Lat) 1 Wil 1900 (Swi) 0; Dubnica (Slk) 3 Olympiakos Nicosia (Cyp) 0; Gyor (Hun) 1 Ethnikos Achnas (Cyp) 1; Odra Wodzislaw (Pol) 1 Shamrock Rovers (Ire) 2; OFK Belgrade (Ser) 6 Trans Narva (Est) 1; Partizani (Alb) 2 Maccabi Netanya (Isr) 0; Shakhtyor (Bls) 1 Omagh (NI) 0; Sloboda (Bos) 1 KA (Ice) 1.
June 22: Allianssi (Fin) 1 Hibernians (Mlt) 0; Encamp (And) 0 Lierse (Blg) 3; Koper (Sln) 1 Zagreb (Cro) 0; Pasching (Aut) 1 WIT Georgia (Geo) 0; Polonia Warsaw (Pol) 0 Tobol Kostanay (Kaz) 3; Spartak Trnava (Slk) 1 Pobeda (Mac) 5; Sutjeska (Ser) 3 Union Luxembourg (Lux) 0; Tampere United (Fin) 1 Ceahlaul Piatra (Rom) 0; Videoton (Hun) 2 Marek (Bul) 2; Zalgiris Vilnius (Lit) 1 Orgryte (Swe) 1.

ALBANIA

ALBANIAN CUP – Final

May 31 - Qemal Stafa stadium, Tirana
Dinamo 1 (Ziambo 54)
Teuta 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Paparesta (Ita)

ANDORRA

Championship pool

ANDORRA: CHAMP'SHIP POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santa Coloma	22	14	7	1	58	14	49
Encamp	22	14	6	2	63	16	48
Sant Julia	22	11	5	6	73	28	38
Inter d'Escaldes	22	9	2	11	37	54	29

Teams carried forward all points and goals from regular season

ARMENIA

ARMENIAN CUP – Final

May 27 - Sarkisyan Republican stadium, Yerevan
Mika Ashtarak 1 (Petikyan 88)
Banants 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Nalbandyan

AUSTRIA

AUSTRIAN CUP – Final

June 1 - Arnold Schwarzenegger stadium, Graz
Austria Wien 3 (Janocko 15, Rushfeldt 47, 87)
Karnten 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Steiner

BELGIUM

BELGIUM – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	32	25	4	3	96	33	79
Anderlecht	32	23	2	7	72	33	71
Lokeren	32	18	6	8	69	51	60
St Truiden	32	16	8	8	63	44	56
Lierse	32	16	8	8	51	41	56
Genk	32	16	7	9	73	52	55
Standard	32	14	8	10	53	39	50
Gent	32	15	2	15	49	55	47
Mons	32	13	4	15	45	45	43
Westerlo	32	12	4	16	39	46	40
Beveren	32	12	2	18	52	69	38
Royal Antwerp	32	9	7	16	44	55	34
Mouscron	32	9	5	18	42	72	32
Germinal B	32	8	7	17	49	57	31
La Louviere	32	7	9	16	34	44	30
Charleroi	32	6	9	17	39	66	27
Mechelen	32	4	6	22	18	86	18

Lommel withdrew from League after going into liquidation; all results annulled

BELGIAN CUP – Final

June 1 - King Baudouin stadium, Brussels
St Truiden 1 (Buvens 84)
La Louviere 3 (Ishiaku 27, 72, Arts 35)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Verbist

BULGARIA

May 31: Rilski Sportist 3 Marek 3; Cherno More 4 Slavia 0; Chernomorets 1 Levski 2; Dobrudzha 2 Botev 0; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Lovech 2; CSKA 5 Naftex 2; Lokomotiv Sofia 2 Spartak Varna 1.

BULGARIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	26	21	3	2	67	16	66
Levski	26	19	3	4	61	19	60
Lovech	26	17	4	5	49	22	55
Slavia	26	16	3	7	57	30	51
Cherno More	26	14	6	6	42	21	48
Lok Plovdiv*	26	16	2	8	56	33	47
Spartak Varna	26	10	4	12	25	34	34
Naftex	26	10	3	13	31	36	33
Marek	26	8	6	12	35	42	30
Lok Sofia	26	7	4	15	23	37	25
Chernomorets	26	7	3	16	32	56	24
Botev	26	6	3	17	26	61	21
Dobrudzha	26	4	2	20	19	73	14
Rilski Sportist	26	1	6	19	20	63	9

**3pts deducted for failing to fulfil fixture*

CROATIA

Championship play-offs

May 31: Zagreb 2 Varteks 2; Hajduk 1 Cibalia 0; Dinamo 1 Kamen Ingrad 0.

CROATIA: CH'SHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	32	25	3	4	76	27	78
Hajduk	32	22	4	6	56	22	70
Varteks	32	18	3	11	52	38	57
Kamen Ingrad	32	11	11	10	34	34	44
Cibalia	32	12	7	13	39	44	43
Zagreb	32	9	9	14	40	52	36

Teams carried forward all points and goals from regular season

CROATIAN CUP – Final

2nd leg - June 4 - Hajduk stadium, Split
Hajduk 4 (Pletikosa pen 19, Rapajic 27, Turkovic 36, Deranja 79)
Uljanik 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Maric
Hajduk 5-0 on agg

CZECH REPUBLIC

May 31: Zlin 2 Sparta 1; Pribram 1 Liberec 1; Chmel Blsany 0 Teplice 1; Hradec Kralove 2 Ceske Budejovice 1; Bohemians 1 Synot 2; Jablonec 4 Brno 1; Zizkov 1 Ostrava 1; Olomouc 0 Slavia 2.

CZECH REPUBLIC – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	30	20	5	5	51	17	65
Slavia	30	18	10	2	65	19	64
Zizkov	30	14	8	8	38	33	50
Liberec	30	14	8	8	43	36	50
Ostrava	30	13	6	11	41	38	45
Teplice	30	13	6	11	33	32	45
Zlin	30	11	9	10	34	41	42
Synot	30	11	7	12	39	40	40
Brno	30	10	9	11	35	31	39
Pribram	30	9	12	9	34	30	39
Olomouc	30	8	10	12	29	33	34
Jablonec	30	7	13	10	29	39	34
Ceske Budejovice	30	8	6	16	36	54	30
Chmel Blsany	30	7	7	16	28	39	28
Bohemians	30	5	9	16	34	56	24
Hradec Kralove	30	3	13	14	23	54	22

DENMARK

May 31: AGF 2 Farum 2.
June 1: Esbjerg 4 Midtjylland 1; AaB 1 Koge 0; AB 3 Silkeborg 1; FC Copenhagen 1 OB 1; Viborg 1 Brondby 1.
June 14: Esbjerg 0 FC Copenhagen 0.
June 15: Farum 1 AaB 3; Midtjylland 1 AGF 1; Koge 2 AB 3; Silkeborg 2 Viborg 3; Brondby 4 OB 0.
June 18: AaB 1 Midtjylland 0; Brondby 0 FC Copenhagen 1; AB 1 Farum 2; OB 4 Silkeborg 3; Viborg 6 Koge 1; AGF 1 Esbjerg 1.
June 22: Esbjerg 0 AaB 1; Farum 1 Viborg 0; FC Copenhagen 4 AGF 1; Koge 1 OB 2; Midtjylland 3 AB 3; Silkeborg 4 Brondby 3.

DENMARK – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Copenhagen	33	17	10	6	51	32	61
Brondby	33	15	11	7	61	35	56
Farum	33	16	3	14	49	58	51
OB	33	12	12	9	55	50	48
Esbjerg	33	12	11	10	65	57	47
AaB	33	14	4	15	42	45	46
Midtjylland	33	11	11	11	49	45	44
Viborg	33	11	10	12	58	55	43
AB	33	10	12	11	44	48	42
AGF	33	10	10	13	49	59	40
Silkeborg	33	9	9	15	52	54	36
Koge	33	8	3	22	45	82	27

FRANCE

FRENCH CUP – Final

May 31 - Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Paris SG 1 (Hugo Leal 21)
Auxerre 2 (Cisse 77, Boumsong 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 78,316. **Ref:** Layec
Sent off: Hugo Leal (PSG) 66min

GEORGIA

Championship pool

GEORGIA: CHAMPIONSHIP POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo Tbilisi	10	6	2	2	17	7	48 [28]
Torpedo Kutaisi	10	6	2	2	15	5	46 [26]
WIT Georgia	10	4	4	2	10	7	41 [25]
Lokomotivi Tbilisi	10	4	1	5	16	10	38 [25]
Sioni Bolnisi	10	2	2	6	9	20	23 [15]
Kolkheti	10	0	5	5	5	23	20 [15]

Teams carried forward half their points (figure in brackets) from regular season

GEORGIAN CUP – Final

May 26 - Lokomotivi stadium, Tbilisi
Dinamo Tbilisi 3 (Khizaneishvili 9, Daraselia 16, Anchabadze 45)
Sioni Bolnisi 1 (Isiani 75)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Zardze

GERMANY

GERMAN CUP – Final

May 31 - Olympiastadion, Berlin
Bayern Munich 3 (Ballack 3, pen 10, Pizarro 50)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Klose 79)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 70,490. **Ref:** Frohlich
Sent off: Hristov (Kaiserslautern) 78min

HOLLAND

DUTCH CUP – Final

June 1 - De Kuip stadium, Rotterdam
Utrecht 4 (De Jong 39, Gluscevic 49, 57, Kuijt 81)
Feyenoord 1 (Kalou 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Bossen
Sent off: Bosvelt (Feyenoord) 76min

HUNGARY

Championship play-offs

May 30: Ferencvaros 0 Debrecen 0; Ujpest 0 MTK 1; Siofok 2 Gyor 1.

HUNGARY: CH'SHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK	32	20	6	6	59	34	66
Ferencvaros	32	19	7	6	50	24	64
Debrecen	32	13	14	5	57	38	53
Ujpest	32	15	7	10	54	41	52
Siofok	32	12	11	9	46	44	47
Gyor	32	9	9	14	41	50	36

Teams carried forward all points and goals from regular season

ISRAEL

ISRAEL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maccabi Tel Aviv	33	22	3	8	66	31	69
Maccabi Haifa	33	21	6	6	75	42	69
Hapoel Tel Aviv	33	19	10	4	53	22	67
Maccabi Netanya	33	15	9	9	47	36	54
H Be'er Sheva	33	15	6	12	56	41	51
M Petach Tikva	33	13	11	9	45	37	50
SC Ashdod	33	11	7	15	35	49	40
H Petach Tikva	33	11	6	16	41	53	39
Beitar Jerusalem	33	10	6	17	46	59	36
Bnei Yehuda	33	9	7	17	39	63	34
H Kfar-Saba*	33	7	5	21	43	81	23
H I Rishon Lezion	33	4	6	23	35	67	18

**3pts deducted for financial irregularities*

ISRAELI CUP – Final

May 27 - National stadium, Ramat-Gan
Hapoel Be'er Sheva 1 (Haim 86)
Hapoel Ramat-Gan 1 (Halawani 55)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 25,000.
Ref: Ben-Hamo
Ramat-Gan 5-4 on pens

ITALY

Relegation play-off

1st leg - May 29
Reggina 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 24,764

2nd leg - June 2
Atalanta 1 (Natali 18)
Reggina 2 (Cozza 33, Bonazzoli 85) Att: 23,969
Reggina 2-1 on agg; stay up. Atalanta relegated

ITALIAN CUP – Final

2nd leg - May 31 - San Siro, Milan
Milan 2 (Rivaldo 65, Inzaghi 90)
Roma 2 (Totti 56, 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 76,000. **Ref:** Rosetti
Sent off: Cassano 70min, Totti 85min (both Roma)
Milan 6-3 on agg

LIECHTENSTEIN

LIECHTENSTEIN CUP – Final

June 1 - Rheinparkstadion, Vaduz
Balzers 0
Vaduz 6 (Beck 5, M Polverino)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 950. **Ref:** Schoch

LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG CUP – Final

May 31 - Stade Josy Barthel, Luxembourg
Grevenmacher 1 (Huss 81)
Etzella Ettelbruck 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,900. **Ref:** Reuter

MACEDONIA

MACEDONIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vardar	33	22	6	5	73	37	72
Belasica	33	20	9	4	50	32	69
Pobeda	33	20	5	8	55	33	65
Rabotnicki	33	16	6	11	41	35	54
Sloga	33	15	6	12	62	50	51
Sileks	33	14	4	15	40	35	46
Cementarnica	33	11	9	13	45	39	42
Napredok	33	13	3	17	39	41	42
Tikves	33	11	4	18	37	58	37
Bregalnica	33	10	6	17	44	49	36
Pelister	33	7	7	19	30	60	28
Kumanovo	33	4	5	24	24	71	17

MACEDONIAN CUP – Final

May 27 - City stadium, Skopje
Cementarnica 4 (Blessing 30, Savov 41, pen 43, Vandair 68)
Sloga 4 (Savic 3, Nuhiji 45, 52, Hristov og 83)
Aet. **HT:** 3-2. **90mins:** 4-4. **Att:** 7,000.
Ref: Jakimovski
Cementarnica 3-2 on pens

MOLDOVA

MOLDOVA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serif	24	19	3	2	64	15	60
Zimbru	24	15	5	4	47	20	50
Nistru	24	13	3	8	33	24	42
Dacia	24	8	8	8	24	28	32
FC Tiraspol*	24	7	5	12	27	38	26
FC Agro	24	4	8	12	13	33	20
Politechnica	24	1	2	21	8	58	5

Hincesti withdrew during winter break; record expunged
**Formerly Constructorul*

NORWAY

June 1: Lillestrom 1 Aalesund 1; Bodo/Glimt 0 Rosenborg 3; Stabaek 1 Valerenga 0; Bryne 6 Tromso 1; Lyn 3 Sogndal 0; Odd Grenland 1 Viking 1.
June 2: Molde 3 Brann 0.
June 14: Rosenborg 5 Molde 0.
June 15: Brann 3 Stabaek 3; Aalesund 0 Bodo/Glimt 2; Viking 1 Lillestrom 1; Sogndal 5 Odd Grenland 0; Tromso 0 Lyn 1.
June 16: Valerenga 3 Bryne 0.
June 22: Lillestrom 1 Sogndal 1; Bodo/Glimt 1 Viking 1; Molde 2 Aalesund 3; Tromso 1 Valerenga 1; Lyn 0 Odd Grenland 2; Stabaek 2 Rosenborg 2.
June 23: Bryne 1 Brann 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	11	9	2	0	30	7	29
Stabaek	11	5	4	2	19	13	19
Bodo/Glimt	11	5	4	2	16	11	19
Viking	11	4	6	1	19	12	18
Sogndal	11	5	3	3	20	15	18
Odd Grenland	11	5	2	4	17	21	17
Lyn	11	4	3	4	16	19	15
Bryne	11	4	1	6	21	18	13
Valerenga	11	3	4	4	14	13	13
Lillestrom	11	2	6	3	10	16	12
Molde	11	3	2	6	13	19	11
Aalesund	11	1	5	5	15	21	8
Brann	11	1	5	5	11	23	8
Tromso	11	1	3	7	15	28	6

POLAND

May 31: Katowice 1 Amica 1; Odra 2 Polonia 2; KSZO 0 Wisla P 2; Wisla K 1 Widzew 0; Gornik 0 Lech 0; Pogon 0 Garbarnia 1; Legia 3 Ruch C 3; Groclin 4 Zaglebie 0.
June 3: Amica 0 Groclin 1; Zaglebie 1 Legia 3; Ruch C 3 Pogon 0; Garbarnia 1 Gornik 1; Lech 2 Wisla K 4; Widzew 2 KSZO 1; Wisla P 0 Odra 1; Polonia 1 Katowice 1.

POLAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla K	30	21	5	4	75	28	68
Groclin	30	18	8	4	56	26	62
Katowice	30	19	4	7	39	21	61
Legia	30	17	9	4	61	29	60
Odra	30	17	5	8	55	42	56
Amica	30	11	10	9	43	34	43
Gornik	30	10	11	9	46	32	41
Polonia	30	11	8	11	37	45	41
Widzew	30	10	7	13	29	39	37
Wisla P	30	10	7	13	29	38	37
Lech	30	8	11	11	41	38	35
Zaglebie	30	8	8	14	34	44	32
Garbarnia	30	8	8	14	40	54	32
Ruch C	30	7	11	12	29	39	32
KSZO	30	4	3	23	21	63	15
Pogon	30	2	3	25	14	77	9

PORTUGAL

Sunday, June 1

Academica 1 (Paulo Adriano 19)
Sporting Braga 0

Beira Mar 1 (Fary 49)
Maritimo 0

Benfica 4 (Feher 15, 44, 81, Tiago 42)
Guimaraes 0

Moreirense 2 (Afonso Martins 75, Demetrios 83)
Pacos Ferreira 0

Nacional 0
Boavista 1 (Luiz Claudio 49)

FC Porto 2 (Helder Postiga 36, Maniche 80)
Sporting Lisbon 0

Santa Clara 2 (Figueiredo 33, Portela 63)
Varzim 2 (Vidigal 60, 89)

Setubal 1 (Marcio Carlos 8)
Belenenses 1 (Eliseu 82)

Uniao Leiria 4 (Silas 17, 88, Leao 24, Maciel 28)
Gil Vicente 2 (Lary 59, Paulo Alves 77)

PORTUGAL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	34	27	5	2	73	26	86
Benfica	34	23	6	5	74	27	75
Sporting Lisbon	34	17	8	9	52	38	59
Guimaraes	34	14	8	12	47	46	50
Uniao Leiria	34	13	10	11	49	47	49
Pacos Ferreira	34	12	9	13	40	47	45
Maritimo	34	13	5	16	36	48	44
Gil Vicente	34	13	5	16	42	53	44
Belenenses	34	11	10	13	47	48	43
Boavista	34	10	13	11	32	31	43
Nacional	34	9	13	12	40	46	40
Moreirense	34	9	12	13	42	46	39
Beira Mar	34	10	9	15	43	50	39
Sporting Braga	34	8	14	12	34	47	38
Academica	34	8	13	13	38	48	37
Varzim	34	10	6	18	38	51	36
Santa Clara	34	8	11	15	39	54	35
Setubal	34	6	13	15	40	53	31

TOP GOALSCORERS

18 Fary Faye (Beira Mar)
18 Simao Sabrosa (Benfica)
16 Adriano (Nacional)
15 Eric Gaucho (Maritimo)
14 Maciel (Uniao Leiria)
13 Helder Postiga (FC Porto)
13 Tiago (Benfica)

PORTUGUESE CUP – Final

June 15 - National stadium, Lisbon
FC Porto 1 (Derlei 63)
Uniao Leiria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Pedro Henriques

ROMANIA

ROMANIAN CUP – Final

May 31 - Lia Manoliu stadium, Bucharest
Dinamo 1 (Tames 30)
National 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Sent off: Olah (National) 61min; Barcauan (Dinamo) 70min

RUSSIA

May 31: Kryliya Sovetov 0 CSKA 2; Uralan 1 Zenit 0; Shinnik 1 Torpedo Moscow 1; Chernomorets 2 Rostov 2; Saturn 0 Lokomotiv 0; Rubin 1 Moscow Spartak 0; Dinamo 3 Rotor 1.
June 1: Torpedo-Metallurg 3 Spartak-Alaniya 1.
June 11: Spartak-Alaniya 0 Zenit 2; Kryliya Sovetov 0 Uralan 0; Lokomotiv 2 Moscow Spartak 1; Chernomorets 1 Rubin 0; Rostov 1 Dinamo 1; Saturn 4 Rotor 1.
June 12: CSKA 2 Shinnik 2; Torpedo-Metallurg 0 Torpedo Moscow 0.
June 18: Torpedo Moscow 2 Spartak-Alaniya 0; Uralan 2 CSKA 2; Zenit 3 Torpedo-Metallurg 0; Dinamo 3 Chernomorets 2.
June 19: Shinnik 2 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Moscow Spartak 0 Saturn 1; Rubin 5 Rostov 0; Rotor 0 Lokomotiv 2.
June 22: CSKA 2 Torpedo Moscow 0; Spartak-Alaniya 0 Uralan 1.
June 23: Torpedo-Metallurg 1 Shinnik 2; Kryliya Sovetov 2 Zenit 1; Lokomotiv 2 Dinamo 0; Chernomorets 1 Rotor 0; Rostov 3 Spartak 2; Saturn 1 Rubin 1.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	14	10	3	1	27	12	33
Saturn	14	7	5	2	21	12	26
Dinamo	14	7	3	4	27	16	24
Lokomotiv	14	6	3	5	19	17	21
Rostov	14	5	6	3	15	18	21
Zenit	14	6	3	5	14	17	21
Shinnik	14	4	8	2	19	14	20
Kryliya Sovetov	14	5	5	4	18	13	20
Rubin	14	5	5	4	18	13	20
Torpedo Moscow	14	5	4	5	16	16	19
Chernomorets	14	4	6	4	16	17	18
Moscow Spartak	14	3	4	7	16	21	13
Rotor	14	3	4	7	14	20	13
Spartak-Alaniya	14	4	0	10	9	26	12
Uralan	14	2	5	7	8	20	11
Torpedo-Metallurg	14	2	4	8	11	16	10

RUSSIAN CUP – Final

June 15 - Lokomotiv stadium, Moscow
Moscow Spartak 1 (Titov 28)
Rostov 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Yegorov

SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH CUP – Final

May 31 - Hampden Park, Glasgow
Rangers 1 (Amoruso 66)
Dundee 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 47,136. **Ref:** Clark

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

SERBO-MONTENEGRIN CUP – Final

May 29 - Partizan stadium, Belgrade
Sartid 1 (Pantelic 109 - golden goal)
Red Star 0
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000.
Ref: Radoman

SLOVAKIA

SLOVAKIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MSK Zilina	36	21	7	8	69	31	70
Artmedia Petrzalka	36	20	7	9	49	32	67
Slovan Bratislava	36	19	6	11	60	42	63
Spartak Trnava	36	15	11	10	55	47	56
Matador Puchov	36	14	8	14	46	47	50
Inter Bratislava	36	12	7	17	48	58	43
Dubnica	36	12	7	17	41	52	43
Ruzomberok	36	12	6	18	45	60	42
Trencin	36	11	5	20	48	69	38
Kosice	36	6	12	18	41	64	30

SLOVENIA

SLOVENIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maribor	31	18	8	5	57	32	62
Publikum	31	15	10	6	57	38	55
Olimpija	31	14	12	5	54	32	54
Smartno	31	12	10	9	46	42	46
Koper	31	12	9	10	41	41	45
Primorje	31	13	5	13	47	44	44
Dravograd	31	9	9	13	40	43	36
HIT Gorica	31	7	13	11	34	43	34
Mura	31	9	7	15	38	48	34
Ljubljana*	31	9	6	16	41	66	30
Rudar	31	6	7	18	32	51	25
Korotan**	11	2	4	5	7	14	3

**3pts deducted for failing to fulfil fixture*
***Korotan were excluded from League after 19 rounds for failing to fulfil two consecutive fixtures. Their first 11 results (one versus each of the other sides) were allowed to stand; the other eight were annulled. Previously, Korotan had been docked 7pts for failing to pay players and coaching staff*

SPAIN

Saturday, May 31

Real Madrid 1 (Raul 67)
Celta Vigo 1 (Mostovoi 36) Att: 70,000

Sunday, June 1

Alaves 0
Betis 1 (Fernando 55) Att: 17,183

Barcelona 2 (Saviola 23, Mendieta pen 66)
Malaga 1 (Dely Valdes pen 55) Att: 42,886

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Romero 13, Makaay 77, Valeron 84)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Albertini pen 6, Correa 75) Att: 25,000

Mallorca 1 (Pandiani pen 80)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Peragon 70) Att: 13,000

Racing Santander 5 (Bodipo 6, 39, Javi Guerrero 76, Pablo Casar 79, 82)
Espanyol 2 (Milosevic 63, Maxi Rodriguez 86) Att: 12,610

Real Sociedad 1 (Xabi Alonso 33)
Valencia 1 (Reveillere 34) Att: 30,000

Sevilla 1 (Marcos Vales 50)
Recreativo 0 Att: 24,000

Valladolid 0
Osasuna 2 (Palacios 10, Valdo 43) Att: 10,000

Villarreal 1 (Victor 2)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Etxeberria 30) Att: 19,000

Saturday, June 14

Valladolid 2 (Aganzo 52, Antonio Lopez pen 81)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 6,500

Sunday, June 15

Athletic Bilbao 3 (Del Horno 14, Yeste 42, Urzaiz 70)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Capdevila 66, Sergio 68) Att: 40,465

Atletico Madrid 0
Real Madrid 4 (Ronaldo 6, 31, Raul 17, 73) Att: 58,000

Betis 4 (Fernando pen 12, Joaquin 45, Dani 61, Marcos Assuncao 76)
Racing Santander 2 (Munitis 70, Pablo Casar 83) Att: 30,000

Celta Vigo 3 (Mostovoi 8, 50, Hossam 69)
Real Sociedad 2 (Nihat 64, 82) Att: 35,000

Espanyol 2 (Maxi Rodriguez 23, Velamazan 73)
Villarreal 2 (De Nigris 51, Xisco 90) Att: 12,400

Malaga 3 (Dario Silva 18, pen 87, Canabal 73)
Sevilla 2 (Reyes pen 34, Javi Navarro 60) Att: 16,000

Osasuna 4 (Aloisi pen 25, 77, Moha 63, 85)
Alaves 2 (Ruben Navarro 36, 83) Att: 13,354

Recreativo 1 (Joaozinho 47)
Mallorca 1 (Eto'o pen 3) Att: 7,000

Valencia 1 (J Sanchez pen 87)
Barcelona 3 (Mendieta pen 43, Kluivert pen 71, Overmars 79) Att: 50,000

Saturday, June 21

Alaves 1 (Pablo 58)
Valladolid 1 (Aganzo 36) Att: 6,656

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Makaay 75, Luque 76)
Espanyol 1 (Roger 13) Att: 18,000

Mallorca 1 (Tuni 90)
Malaga 0 Att: 8,000

Racing Santander 2 (Javi Guerrero 28, 90)
Osasuna 3 (Inaki Munoz 19, Brit 36, Aloisi 73) Att: 9,601

Rayo Vallecano 0
Recreativo 0 Att: 5,000

Sevilla 0
Valencia 3 (Aimar 19, J Sanchez 29, 53) Att: 40,000

Sunday, June 22

Barcelona 2 (Sorin 8, Saviola 50)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 48,507

Real Madrid 3 (Ronaldo 9, 62, Roberto Carlos 45)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Alkiza 36) Att: 60,000

Real Sociedad 3 (Kovacevic 52, De Pedro 56, Nihat 74)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 31,400

Villarreal 1 (Guayre 13)
Betis 4 (Dani 25, 55, Joaquin 35, 76) Att: 10,000

SPAIN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	38	22	12	4	86	42	78
Real Sociedad	38	22	10	6	71	45	76
Dep La Coruna	38	22	6	10	67	47	72
Celta Vigo	38	17	10	11	45	36	61
Valencia	38	17	9	12	56	35	60
Barcelona	38	15	11	12	63	47	56
Athletic Bilbao	38	15	10	13	63	61	55
Betis	38	14	12	12	56	53	54
Mallorca	38	14	10	14	49	56	52
Sevilla	38	13	11	14	38	39	50
Atletico Madrid	38	12	11	15	51	56	47
Osasuna	38	12	11	15	40	48	47
Valladolid	38	12	10	16	37	40	46
Malaga	38	11	13	14	44	49	46
Villarreal	38	11	12	15	44	53	45
Racing Santander	38	13	5	20	54	64	44
Espanyol	38	10	13	15	48	54	43
Recreativo	38	8	12	18	35	61	36
Alaves	38	8	11	19	38	68	35
Rayo Vallecano	38	7	11	20	31	62	32

TOP GOALSCORERS

29 Roy Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)
23 Nihat Kahveci (Real Sociedad)
23 Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
20 Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)
16 Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)
16 Raul (Real Madrid)

SPANISH CUP – Final

June 28 - Martinez Valero stadium, Elche
Recreativo 0
Mallorca 3 (Pandiani pen 20, Eto'o 73, 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez

SWEDEN

June 1: Halmstads 3 Landskrona 0; Orebro 2 Sundsvall 1; Orgryte 0 Hammarby 1.
June 2: Helsingborgs 0 Enkopings 4; Elfsborg 2 IFK Gothenburg 1; Osters 0 Malmo 2; AIK 3 Djurgardens 3.
June 12: Osters 1 Elfsborg 2.
June 15: Sundsvall 0 Orgryte 1; Hammarby 2 Osters 2; Landskrona 1 Djurgardens 2.
June 16: AIK 0 Helsingborgs 2; Enkopings 1 Elfsborg 1; IFK Gothenburg 4 Orebro 0.
June 17: Malmo 2 Halmstads 1.
June 18: Osters 1 Orgryte 2.
June 22: Orebro 4 Enkopings 2.
June 23: Djurgardens 0 Malmo 2; Helsingborgs 2 Landskrona 2; Elfsborg 2 AIK 0; IFK Gothenburg 1 Sundsvall 1.
June 25: Halmstads 3 Hammarby 1.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Djurgardens	11	7	1	3	26	10	22
Hammarby	11	6	4	1	17	11	22
AIK	11	6	2	3	20	13	20
Orebro	11	6	1	4	19	18	19
Malmo	11	5	3	3	17	12	18
Helsingborgs	11	5	3	3	14	14	18
Halmstads	11	5	2	4	18	15	17
Elfsborg	11	4	4	3	14	17	16
Orgryte	11	4	2	5	14	19	14
IFK Gothenburg	11	3	4	4	18	13	13
Sundsvall	11	2	4	5	11	15	10
Landskrona	11	2	4	5	13	18	10
Osters	11	2	2	7	10	20	8
Enkopings	11	1	2	8	11	27	5

SWITZERLAND

Championship pool

May 31: Zurich 5 Servette 2; Wil 1900 2 Thun 2; Basle 3 Neuchatel Xamax 0; Young Boys 2 Grasshopper 4.

SWITZERLAND: CH'SHIP POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	14	9	5	0	37	15	57 [25]
Basle	14	10	2	2	38	17	56 [24]
Neuchatel X	14	5	4	5	18	17	35 [16]
Young Boys	14	6	1	7	21	29	34 [15]
Zurich	14	4	3	7	20	23	31 [16]
Servette	14	4	4	6	16	26	31 [15]
Thun	14	3	3	8	18	30	28 [16]
Wil 1900	14	2	4	8	19	30	26 [16]

Teams carried forward half their points (figure in brackets) from regular season

TURKEY

May 30: Galatasaray 2 Gaziantepspor 1.
May 31: Kocaelispor 1 Adanaspor 2; Istanbulspor 0 Altay 0; Ankaragucu 1 Denizlispor 1; Diyarbakirspor 1 Elazigspor 2; Goztepe 1 Fenerbahce 1; Bursaspor 3 Genclerbirligi 1; Trabzonspor 0 Malatyaspor 2; Samsunspor 3 Besiktas 4.

TURKEY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	34	26	7	1	63	21	85
Galatasaray	34	24	5	5	61	27	77
Genclerbirligi	34	19	9	6	76	40	66
Gaziantepspor	34	16	9	9	61	41	57
Malatyaspor	34	14	10	10	56	45	52
Fenerbahce	34	13	12	9	55	42	51
Trabzonspor	34	13	12	9	44	33	51
Ankaragucu	34	15	4	15	44	42	49
Istanbulspor	34	12	7	15	42	47	43
Denizlispor	34	10	10	14	37	42	40
Adanaspor	34	10	10	14	44	54	40
Samsunspor	34	10	9	15	42	59	39
Elazigspor	34	10	7	17	40	59	37
Diyarbakirspor	34	9	9	16	34	47	36
Bursaspor	34	9	9	16	42	62	36
Altay	34	9	8	17	48	69	35
Goztepe	34	5	11	18	32	57	26
Kocaelispor	34	6	4	24	32	66	22

UKRAINE

June 1: Olexandria 1 Illichivets 0; Obolon 4 Chornomorets 1; Vorskla 2 Dnipro 0; Volyn-1 0 Arsenal 1.
June 2: Karpaty 0 Metalurh D 0; Kryvbas 1 Metalist 0; Dynamo 4 Tavriya 1; Shakhtar 2 Metalurh Z 0.
June 15: Metalurh Z 1 Karpaty 1; Metalist 3 Volyn-1 1; Chornomorets 2 Vorskla 2; Metalurh D 1 Olexandria 0; Tavriya 3 Shakhtar 3; Arsenal 0 Dynamo 1; Dnipro 3 Kryvbas 0; Illichivets 2 Obolon 1.
June 18: Karpaty 3 Olexandria 2; Obolon 0 Metalurh D 3; Vorskla 1 Illichivets 1; Kryvbas 2 Chornomorets 4; Volyn-1 4 Dnipro 5; Dynamo 4 Metalist 2; Shakhtar 3 Arsenal 0; Metalurh Z 1 Tavriya 1.

UKRAINE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	30	23	4	3	66	20	73
Shakhtar	30	22	4	4	61	24	70
Metalurh D	30	18	6	6	44	26	60
Dnipro	30	18	5	7	48	27	59
Arsenal	30	16	8	6	49	24	56
Volyn-1	30	12	5	13	37	44	41
Karpaty	30	9	9	12	29	37	36
Chornomorets	30	10	4	16	31	45	34
Tavriya	30	9	7	14	36	50	34
Illichivets	30	8	10	12	34	38	34
Vorskla	30	8	8	14	26	41	32
Kryvbas	30	8	7	15	25	37	31
Olexandria	30	7	9	14	26	43	30
Obolon	30	7	7	16	32	45	28
Metalurh Z	30	6	8	16	22	41	26
Metalist	30	6	5	19	19	43	23

UKRAINIAN CUP – Final

May 25 - Olimpiisky stadium, Kyiv
Dynamo 2 (Khatskevich 56, Rincon 90)
Shakhtar 1 (Vorobei 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 71,000

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Semi-finals, 1st legs

June 4 - Santos
Santos (Bra) 1 (Nene 67)
Independiente Medellin (Col) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Santos: Fabio Costa - Wellington (Nene 57), Fabio Pereira, Leo, Alex, Paulo Almeida, Renato, Elano, Robinho, Diego, Fabiano.
Independiente: Gonzalez - Baloy, Calle, Perea, Vasquez, Cortes, Restrepo, Jaramillo, Molina (Serna 68), Moreno, Montoya (C A Alvarez 76).

June 11 - Buenos Aires
Boca Juniors 2 (Schiavi 41, Tevez 89)
America 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gonzalez (Par)
Boca: Abbondanzieri - Ibarra, Schiavi, Burdisso, Rodriguez, Battaglia (Estevez 87), Cascini, Cagna (Villarreal 61), Donnet (Caneo 46), Tevez, Delgado. *Sent off: Ibarra 82min.*
America: Zapata - Bustos, Gonzalez, Navarro, Tierradentro, Cano, Angulo, Vargas, Ferreira, Vasquez (L F Moreno 71), Castillo. *Sent off: Castillo 82min, Bustos 88min.*

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

June 18 - Medellin
Independiente Medellin 2 (Moreno 13, Molina 79)
Santos 3 (Alex 36, Fabiano 61, Leo 85)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Hidalgo (Per)
Santos 4-2 on agg
Independiente: Gonzalez - Cortes, Calle, Baloy, Perea, Vasquez (C A Alvarez 65), Montoya (Serna 52), Moreno (D A Alvarez 85), Jaramillo, Molina, Restrepo.
Santos: Fabio Costa - Pereira, Leo, Reginaldo Araujo (Andre Luis 76), Paulo Almeida, Alex, Robinho (Douglas 77), Renato, Ricardo Oliveira, Diego, Elano (Fabiano 24).

June 19 - Cali
America 0
Boca Juniors 4 (Tevez 13, 22, Schiavi pen 40, Delgado pen 76)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)
Boca 6-0 on agg
America: Zapata - Londono, Tierradentro, Navarro (Villareal 27), Gonzalez, Virviescas, Angulo, Vargas, Ferreira, L F Moreno (J A Moreno 82), Vasquez.
Boca: Abbondanzieri - Jerez, Schiavi, Burdisso, Rodriguez, Villarreal, Cascini (Pinto 71), Battaglia, Cagna (Caneo 67), Tevez (Cangele 49), Delgado.

Final, 1st leg

June 25 - Buenos Aires
Boca Juniors 2 (Delgado 32, 83)
Santos 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Boca: Abbondanzieri - Ibarra, Schiavi, Burdisso, Rodriguez, Battaglia, Cascini, Cagna (Cangele 89), Delgado, Barros Schelotto (Villarreal 53), Tevez.
Santos: Fabio Costa - Reginaldo Araujo, Pereira (Andre Luis 46), Alex, Leo, Paulo Almeida, Renato, Fabiano (Nene 69), Diego, Robinho, Ricardo Oliveira. *Sent off: Reginaldo Araujo 82min.*

ARGENTINA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, May 30

Racing Club 1 (Estevez 86)
Estudiantes 1 (Maggiolo 8)

Saturday, May 31

Rosario Central 2 (Sanchez 49, Figueroa 53)
Independiente 0

San Lorenzo 1 (Chatruc 10)
Chacarita Juniors 0

Sunday, June 1

Banfield 0
Huracan 1 (Villa 25)

Boca Juniors 2 (Barros Schelotto 64, 70)
River Plate 2 (D'Alessandro 10, Cavenaghi pen 39)

Gimnasia LP 0
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Nanni 32)

Lanus 4 (Moreno 1, Morales 78, Mannara 80, Salomon 90)
Colon Santa Fe 3 (Delgado 29, Capurro 57, Blanco 83)

Nueva Chicago 3 (Huerta 39, Serrano 51, Ceballos 88)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Lux 70)

Olimpo 1 (Castillo 48)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Union Santa Fe 0
Arsenal 3 (Esmerado 6, D Espinola 44, Romero 55)

Friday, June 6

Independiente 0
Nueva Chicago 0

Saturday, June 7

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Liendo 31)
Racing Club 1 (Orozco 32)

Talleres Cordoba 3 (Gonzalez 57, 74, Real 82)
Union Santa Fe 0

Velez Sarsfield 0
Olimpo 1 (Castillo 74)

Sunday, June 8

Arsenal 0
Banfield 0

Chacarita Juniors 0
Lanus 0

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Carignano pen 65, Blanco 71)
Gimnasia LP 0

Estudiantes 0
Rosario Central 0

Huracan 0
Boca Juniors 4 (Bracamonte 23, 76, 79, Pinto 73)

River Plate 4 (Cavenaghi 45, Lequi 64, D'Alessandro 80, Pereyra 84)
San Lorenzo 0

Friday, June 13

Union Santa Fe 0
Independiente 1 (Insua 22)

Saturday, June 14

Nueva Chicago 0
Rosario Central 3 (Figueroa 18, Sanchez 48, Pino 85)

Racing Club 2 (Milito 16, Peralta pen 20)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Nanni pen 38, pen 52)

Sunday, June 15

Banfield 1 (Jimenez 87)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Boca Juniors 2 (Tevez 82, Schiavi 86)
Arsenal 2 (Romero 34, 68)

Gimnasia LP 1 (Enria 45)
Chacarita Juniors 0

Lanus 3 (Diaz 5, Benitez 21, Morales 80)
River Plate 4 (Cavenaghi 10, Fuertes 38, 47, L Gonzalez 42)

Newell's Old Boys 0
Estudiantes 0

Olimpo 0
Colon Santa Fe 0

San Lorenzo 4 (Chatruc 21, Acosta 32, 64, Luna 76)
Huracan 0

Friday, June 20

Arsenal 1 (S Gonzalez 20)
San Lorenzo 2 (Luna 33, Saja pen 85)

Saturday, June 21

Huracan 1 (Garipe pen 83)
Lanus 3 (Diaz 18, 66, Bustos Montoya 71)

Independiente 0
Banfield 1 (Moreno y Fabianesi pen 54)

Sunday, June 22

Chacarita Juniors 0
Olimpo 1 (Castillo 33)

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Blanco 5, Romagnoli 75)
Racing Club 1 (Peralta 32)

Estudiantes 5 (Arguello og 24, Carrusca 25, Maggiolo 28, 61, Luguercio 88)
Nueva Chicago 1 (Ceballos 22)

River Plate 3 (Cavenaghi 2, Fuertes 7, D'Alessandro 80)
Gimnasia LP 0

Rosario Central 4 (Figueroa 10, Carbonari pen 42, Ortiz og 71, Pino 86)
Union Santa Fe 0

Talleres Cordoba 3 (Perrone 7, La Paglia pen 12, Gonzalez 22)
Boca Juniors 1 (Silvestre 38)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Nanni 11)
Newell's Old Boys 0

ARGENTINA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	17	12	4	1	40	15	40
Velez Sarsfield	17	12	2	3	27	10	38
Boca Juniors	17	11	3	3	31	15	36
Rosario Central	17	9	6	2	33	16	33
Olimpo	17	8	4	5	21	15	28
San Lorenzo	17	7	4	6	24	26	25
Lanus	17	7	3	7	26	27	24
Colon Santa Fe	17	5	8	4	16	14	23
Nueva Chicago	17	6	5	6	26	29	23
Estudiantes	17	5	7	5	21	18	22
Gimnasia LP	17	6	4	7	19	26	22
Racing Club	17	5	6	6	21	21	21
Talleres Cordoba	17	5	4	8	20	23	19
Newell's OB	17	4	7	6	19	23	19
Banfield	17	5	4	8	15	20	19
Arsenal	17	3	9	5	11	13	18
Independiente	17	4	6	7	12	21	18
Union Santa Fe	17	4	5	8	17	24	17
Chacarita Jnrs	17	2	4	11	8	20	10
Huracan	17	1	3	13	12	43	6

LEADING GOALSCORERS

15	Roberto Nanni (Velez Sarsfield)
12	Fernando Cavenaghi (River Plate)
12	Luciano Figueroa (Rosario Central)
11	Cristian Castillo (Olimpo)
8	Ernesto Farias (Estudiantes)
7	Ariel Carreno (Nueva Chicago)

BOLIVIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 28: Iberoamericana 1 The Strongest 2.
May 29: Blooming 1 Oriente 2; Bolivar 4 Guabira 0.
May 31: Iberoamericana 0 Jorge Wilstermann 0.
June 1: Aurora 3 The Strongest 1; Bolivar 1 Real Potosi 1; Oriente 2 Independiente 1; San Jose 2 Blooming 1; Union Central 0 Guabira 0.
June 4: Blooming 1 Union Central 0; Guabira 2 Aurora 2; Independiente 1 San Jose 0; Real Potosi 3 Iberoamericana 2.
June 5: Jorge Wilstermann 1 Oriente 2.
June 7: San Jose 0 Union Central 2.
June 8: The Strongest 3 Bolivar 2; Guabira 2 Iberoamericana 1.
June 15: Aurora 1 Blooming 1; Independiente 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Oriente 6 Real Potosi 0; Bolivar 3 Iberoamericana 0.
June 18: Blooming 2 Bolivar 2; Real Potosi 1 Independiente 1; Jorge Wilstermann 1 San Jose 0.
June 19: The Strongest 2 Oriente 0; Union Central 1 Aurora 2.
June 21: Iberoamericana 5 Blooming 1.
June 22: Bolivar 5 Union Central 0; Independiente 1 The Strongest 2; Oriente 1 Guabira 1; San Jose 3 Aurora 0; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Real Potosi 1.

BOLIVIA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	18	10	5	3	46	17	35
J Wilstermann	17	9	6	2	29	14	33
The Strongest	17	9	6	2	29	22	33
Oriente	18	9	3	6	42	29	30
Real Potosi	17	6	6	5	33	30	24
San Jose	17	7	3	7	24	23	24
Aurora	17	5	6	6	32	36	21
Iberoamericana	18	6	3	9	29	37	21
Blooming	18	5	5	8	25	31	20
Union Central	17	3	9	5	15	20	18
Independiente	17	2	6	9	16	35	12
Guabira	17	1	6	10	12	38	9

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

May 31: Fluminense 2 Atletico Paranaense 1; Internacional 2 Paysandu 1; Cruzeiro 2 Criciuma 0; Coritiba 3 Guarani 2; Ponte Preta 0 Sao Caetano 0.
June 1: Parana 6 Flamengo 2; Vasco da Gama 2 Atletico Mineiro 2; Bahia 2 Goias 1; Corinthians 4 Vitoria 0; Santos 3 Sao Paulo 2; Fortaleza 3 Juventude 1; Figueirense 2 Gremio 1.
June 7: Vitoria 2 Fluminense 1; Guarani 1 Santos 2; Gremio 3 Fortaleza 1; Atletico Mineiro 1 Figueirense 1.
June 8: Criciuma 1 Internacional 0; Juventude 0 Vasco da Gama 0; Sao Paulo 2 Bahia 2; Goias 1 Coritiba 2; Sao Caetano 1 Corinthians 0; Paysandu 3 Parana 0; Atletico Paranaense 4 Ponte Preta 2.
June 14: Coritiba 2 Atletico Paranaense 0; Fluminense 2 Goias 3; Ponte Preta 0 Guarani 2.
June 15: Bahia 2 Vitoria 1; Vasco da Gama 1 Flamengo 2; Corinthians 1 Sao Paulo 2; Fortaleza 1 Paysandu 2; Parana 1 Juventude 2; Cruzeiro 0 Atletico Mineiro 0; Gremio 0 Internacional 0; Santos 0 Sao Caetano 1; Criciuma 1 Figueirense 0.
June 18: Flamengo 3 Cruzeiro 0.
June 19: Bahia 2 Coritiba 2.
June 21: Vasco da Gama 2 Criciuma 0; Atletico Mineiro 3 Gremio 2; Sao Paulo 1 Goias 0; Internacional 2 Parana 1.
June 22: Paysandu 2 Flamengo 2; Fluminense 5 Guarani 2; Ponte Preta 3 Corinthians 3; Figueirense 2 Fortaleza 2; Sao Caetano 2 Vitoria 1; Juventude 0 Cruzeiro 1.

BRAZIL – NATIONAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro	14	8	4	2	30	17	28
Internacional*	14	7	3	4	18	15	26
Sao Paulo	14	7	4	3	29	25	25
Santos	13	7	3	3	22	13	24
Coritiba	14	7	3	4	23	18	24
Sao Caetano	14	6	6	2	17	13	24
At Mineiro	14	6	5	3	25	18	23
Flamengo	14	5	6	3	23	23	21
Corinthians	14	5	5	4	30	20	20
Fluminense	14	5	4	5	21	21	19
Bahia	14	5	4	5	20	21	19
Parana	14	5	3	6	24	22	18
Guarani	14	5	3	6	24	23	18
Criciuma	14	5	3	6	15	21	18
Vitoria	14	5	3	6	17	23	18
Vasco da Gama	14	4	6	4	21	21	18
At Paranaense	13	5	2	6	23	22	17
Paysandu	14	4	4	6	26	31	16
Gremio	14	4	3	7	17	19	15
Figueirense	14	3	6	5	16	19	15
Juventude*	14	2	5	7	11	27	14
Fortaleza	14	3	4	7	15	23	13
Ponte Preta*	14	3	6	5	18	24	11
Goias	14	2	3	9	23	29	9

**Ponte Preta have been docked the 4pts gained from the 1-1 draw with Internacional and the 1-0 win over Juventude for fielding an ineligible player in each game; Internacional were awarded two extra points (ie the equivalent of a win), and Juventude received three points. However, the won-drawn-lost and goals records were not altered*

COPA BRASIL – Final

June 8 - Maracana, Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo 1 (Fernando Baiano 90)
Cruzeiro 1 (Alex 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 72,160. **Ref:** Simon

June 11 - Mineirao stadium, Belo Horizonte
Cruzeiro 3 (Deivid 1, Aristizabal 16, Luisao 28)
Flamengo 1 (Fernando Baiano 64)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 79,614. **Ref:** Oliveira
Cruzeiro 4-2 on agg

CHILE

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Qualifying play-off

May 28: San Felipe 2 Santiago Wanderers 2.
Wanderers qualified for knockout stages on better League record

Play-offs – 1st rnd

*1st legs**
May 31: Cobresal 3 Colo Colo 0; U de Chile 0 U de Concepcion 0.
June 1: Union Espanola 3 Cobreloa 3; Santiago Wanderers 3 Audax Italiano 1; Rangers 2 Puerto Montt 1; Huachipato 1 U Catolica 2.

*2nd legs**
June 14: Audax Italiano 0 Santiago Wanderers 0.
June 15: Cobreloa 3 Union Espanola 2 (aet; 2-2 at 90mins); Puerto Montt 3 Rangers 0 (aet; 2-0 at 90mins); Colo Colo** 2 Cobresal 1 (aet; 2-0 at 90mins); U de Concepcion 4 U de Chile 3 (aet; 3-3 at 90mins).
June 16: U Catolica 1 Huachipato** 1 (aet; 0-1 at 90mins).
**Best of two ties (aggregate score irrelevant); if level at one tie each, 2nd leg went to sudden-death extra-time and penalties if necessary to determine winners.*
***Huachipato and Colo Colo qualified as best losers.*

Quarter-finals

*1st legs**
June 18: Santiago Wanderers 1 Cobreloa 3; Cobresal 2 U de Concepcion 1.
June 19: Huachipato 2 Puerto Montt 0; Colo Colo 2 U Catolica 3.

*2nd legs**
June 21: Cobreloa 4 Santiago Wanderers 2; U de Concepcion 7 Cobresal 1 (aet; 6-1 at 90mins).
June 22: Puerto Montt 2 Huachipato 3; U Catolica 0 Colo Colo 1 (aet; 0-1 at 90mins; Colo Colo 4-3 on pens).
**Best of two ties (aggregate score irrelevant); if level at one tie each, 2nd leg went to sudden-death extra-time and penalties if necessary to determine winners.*

COLOMBIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Play-offs

May 28: Magdalena 1 Once Caldas 1; Dep Cali 3 America 0; At Junior 2 Pereira 1; Centauros 3 Millonarios 1.
June 1: Once Caldas 2 America 0; Dep Cali 2 Magdalena 0; Millonarios 2 At Junior 1; Pereira 3 Centauros 0.

OPENING PLAY-OFFS: GP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Once Caldas	6	4	2	0	14	3	14
Dep Cali	6	3	2	1	10	5	11
America	6	2	0	4	6	12	6
Magdalena	6	0	2	4	3	13	2

OPENING PLAY-OFFS: GP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Junior	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
Pereira	6	3	0	3	9	6	9
Centauros	6	2	2	2	6	9	8
Millonarios	6	2	1	3	7	9	7

Group winners qualified for Final

Final

1st leg - June 5
At Junior 0
Once Caldas 0

2nd leg - June 8
Once Caldas 1 (Galvan 74)
At Junior 0
HT: 0-0
Once Caldas 1-0 on agg

ECUADOR

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 28: Espoli 0 LDU Quito 1; Aucas 1 Dep Quito 3; Tecnico Universitario 2 Manta 0; Emelec 3 El Nacional 2; Dep Cuenca 1 Barcelona 0.
June 1: El Nacional 2 Espoli 1; LDU Quito 4 Dep Cuenca 1; Dep Quito 0 Emelec 0; Manta 0 Aucas 1; Barcelona 6 Tecnico Universitario 0.
June 15: Aucas 2 Barcelona 1; Tecnico Universitario 3 LDU Quito 3; Dep Quito 3 Manta 1; Dep Cuenca 1 El Nacional 2; Emelec 2 Espoli 2.
June 22: Barcelona 2 Dep Quito 1; Espoli 2 Dep Cuenca 1; El Nacional 1 Tecnico Universitario 0; LDU Quito 6 Aucas 2; Manta 1 Emelec 3.

ECUADOR: OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	18	12	2	4	41	19	38
LDU Quito	18	10	6	2	37	24	36
El Nacional	18	9	4	5	31	22	31
Dep Quito	18	8	4	6	29	23	28
Emelec	18	6	8	4	26	31	26
Dep Cuenca	18	5	7	6	27	26	22
Aucas	18	6	4	8	24	26	22
Tecnico Univ	18	4	5	9	24	36	17
Espoli	18	4	3	11	25	37	15
Manta	18	3	3	12	17	37	12

Top three qualify for overall championship play-offs

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

June 15: Cerro Porteno 1 Sol de America 0; 12 de Octubre 0 Guarani 1; Sport Colombia 1 Sportivo Luqueno 2; Olimpia 1 Tacuary 1.
June 16: Libertad 4 San Lorenzo 2.
June 20: Sportivo Luqueno 0 Sol de America 0.
June 22: Tacuary 2 San Lorenzo 2; Libertad 3 12 de Octubre 1; Guarani 4 Sport Colombia 0; Olimpia 2 Cerro Porteno 1.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guarani	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Libertad	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Olimpia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Sportivo Luqueno	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Cerro Porteno	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Tacuary	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Sol de America	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
San Lorenzo	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
12 de Octubre	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Sport Colombia	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

PERU

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 28: Sport Boys 2 Alianza Atletico 2; Universitario 1 Dep Wanka 1; At Universidad 1 Sporting Cristal 4; Cienciano 1 Alianza Lima 0.
May 31: Sporting Cristal 4 Universitario 1.
June 1: Alianza Atletico 4 At Universidad 1; Alianza Lima 2 Estudiantes 1; Melgar 1 Union Huaral 0; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Sport Boys 1; Dep Wanka 3 Cienciano 2.
June 4: Sport Boys 1 Dep Wanka 0; Estudiantes 3 Alianza Atletico 1; Union Huaral 1 Sporting Cristal 2; Universitario 2 Melgar 0; At Universidad 2 Alianza Lima 1; Cienciano 3 Coronel Bolognesi 0.
June 7: Sport Boys 4 Universitario 3; Melgar 1 Sporting Cristal 2.
June 8: Alianza Atletico 2 Dep Wanka 0; Alianza Lima 5 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Estudiantes 2 At Universidad 0; Cienciano 3 Union Huaral 0.
June 14: Universitario 3 Estudiantes 0.
June 15: Union Huaral 2 Sport Boys 1; At Universidad 3 Cienciano 4; Coronel Bolognesi 3 Alianza Atletico 1; Dep Wanka 0 Melgar 1; Sporting Cristal 5 Alianza Lima 2.
June 18: Union Huaral 2 Coronel Bolognesi 2; Estudiantes 3 Melgar 1.
June 22: Dep Wanka 0 Sporting Cristal 3; Alianza Atletico 1 Alianza Lima 2; Universitario 3 At Universidad 3; Sport Boys 1 Cienciano 0; Estudiantes 1 Union Huaral 1; Melgar 1 Coronel Bolognesi 1.

PERU – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal	21	14	4	3	49	20	46
Alianza Lima	21	13	4	4	38	20	43
Coronel Bolognesi	21	9	7	5	28	30	34
Sport Boys	21	8	7	6	34	27	31
Cienciano	21	9	4	8	28	22	31
Alianza Atletico	21	7	8	6	29	27	29
Universitario	21	7	7	7	31	32	28
Union Huaral	21	7	5	9	25	39	26
Melgar	21	5	7	9	20	28	22
Estudiantes	21	6	3	12	23	32	21
Dep Wanka	21	4	6	11	20	29	18
At Universidad	21	3	6	12	24	43	15

URUGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 30: Villa Espanola 4 Miramar Misiones 3.
May 31: Wanderers 2 Defensor 2; Plaza 2 Juventud 0.
June 1: Dep Maldonado 1 Dep Colonia 0; Tacuarembo 1 Danubio 1; Nacional 3 Penarol 1; River Plate 0 Cerro 1; Liverpool 3 Fenix 1; Bella Vista M 1 Central Espanol 0.
June 14: Dep Colonia 0 Penarol 6; Miramar Misiones 0 Central Espanol 2.
June 15: Fenix 2 Tacuarembo 3; Nacional 4 Dep Maldonado 2; River Plate 1 Danubio 2; Liverpool 2 Juventud 0; Cerro 4 Wanderers 0; Bella Vista M 0 Defensor 2; Plaza 5 Villa Espanola 2.
June 21: Danubio 3 Nacional 2; Wanderers 2 Juventud 1.
June 22: Villa Espanola 0 Dep Colonia 0; Tacuarembo 3 Cerro 1; Penarol 2 River Plate 1; Central Espanol 0 Liverpool 1; Defensor 0 Miramar Misiones 2; Fenix 3 Bella Vista M 1; Dep Maldonado 1 Plaza 0.

URUGUAY – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	16	14	1	1	33	8	43
Penarol	16	12	1	3	42	19	37
Wanderers	16	10	3	3	38	25	33
Danubio	16	9	4	3	30	19	31
Cerro	16	8	4	4	24	19	28
Defensor	16	8	3	5	28	22	27
Fenix	16	8	2	6	38	36	26
Dep Maldonado	16	7	4	5	23	26	25
Liverpool	16	7	3	6	22	23	24
Bella Vista M	16	6	3	7	22	20	21
Miramar Misiones	16	6	3	7	27	26	21
Central Espanol	16	6	2	8	14	21	20
Tacuarembo	16	4	5	7	23	25	17
Villa Espanola	16	4	4	8	30	36	16
Plaza	16	2	6	8	17	22	12
River Plate	16	3	3	10	17	26	12
Dep Colonia	16	2	3	11	12	34	9
Juventud	16	0	2	14	9	42	2

VENEZUELA

OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAY-OFF

1st leg - May 28
Maracaibo 1
Caracas 1

2nd leg - June 1
Caracas 3
Maracaibo 0
Caracas 4-1 on agg

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

COSTA RICA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

COSTA RICA: CLOSING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuelense	22	15	5	2	49	22	50
Cartagines	22	13	4	5	45	31	43
Herediano	22	13	3	6	51	26	42
Saprissa	22	11	6	5	44	33	39
Perez Zeledon	22	9	5	8	27	31	32
Santos	22	7	6	9	30	33	27
Liberia	22	6	7	9	24	33	25
Santa Barbara	22	6	6	10	34	42	24
Osa	22	7	1	14	30	49	22
Guanacasteca	22	5	6	11	22	34	21
Carmelita	22	6	3	13	30	45	21
San Carlos	22	4	8	10	19	26	20

HONDURAS

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP – Final

1st leg - May 25
Motagua 0
Marathon 1 (E Martinez 65)
HT: 0-0

2nd leg - June 1
Marathon 3
Motagua 1
Marathon 4-1 on agg

JAMAICA

Championship Final

1st leg - May 18
Arnett Gardens 1 (Bunsie 68)
Hazard United 1 (Davis 48)
HT: 0-0

2nd leg - June 1
Hazard United 3 (Daley 9, Wolfe 26, Nelson 86)
Arnett Gardens 2 (Bunsie 62, Chin-Sue 83)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Batres (Gtm)
Sent off: Wolfe (Hazard) 76min
Hazard 4-3 on agg

MEXICO

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter-finals

1st legs
May 28: Atlas 1 Monterrey 1; Guadalajara 1 Morelia 1; Toluca 1 Tigres 2.
May 29: Veracruz 1 Atlante 1.

2nd legs
May 31: Monterrey 3 Atlas 2 *Monterrey 4-3 on agg*; Morelia 4 Guadalajara 2 *Morelia 5-3 on agg*; Tigres 2 Toluca 2 *Tigres 4-3 on agg.*
June 1: Atlante 0 Veracruz 1 *Veracruz 2-1 on agg.*

Semi-finals

1st legs
June 4: Veracruz 1 Morelia 0; Tigres 1 Monterrey 4.

2nd legs
June 7: Morelia 2 Veracruz 0 *Morelia 2-1 on agg*; Monterrey 1 Tigres 2 *Monterrey 5-3 on agg.*

Final

1st leg - June 11 - Tecnologico stadium, Monterrey
Monterrey 3 (Erviti 1, Franco 47, Castro pen 58)
Morelia 1 (Bautista 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ramos Rizo

2nd leg - June 14 - Morelos stadium, Morelia
Morelia 0
Monterrey 0
Ref: Rodriguez
Monterrey 3-1 on agg

UNITED STATES

May 31: New England Revolution 2 Kansas City Wizards 2 (aet); Columbus Crew 1 MetroStars 1 (aet); Dallas Burn 3 DC United 2; Colorado Rapids 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 0; San Jose Earthquakes 1 Chicago Fire 4.
June 7: DC United 2 Chicago Fire 0; Columbus Crew 1 San Jose Earthquakes 0; Kansas City Wizards 2 MetroStars 1; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Colorado Rapids 0.
June 11: Colorado Rapids 0 DC United 0 (aet).
June 14: MetroStars 2 Chicago Fire 3; DC United 3 Columbus Crew 0; Dallas Burn 1 San Jose Earthquakes 2; Colorado Rapids 4 New England Revolution 1; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Kansas City Wizards 1.
June 18: Chicago Fire 4 Dallas Burn 1; Los Angeles Galaxy 1 San Jose Earthquakes 1 (aet).
June 21: MetroStars 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 0; DC United 1 New England Revolution 1 (aet); Kansas City Wizards 4 Chicago Fire 2; Dallas Burn 3 Colorado Rapids 1; San Jose Earthquakes 2 Columbus Crew 1.
June 25: Colorado Rapids 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 2 (aet).

USA – EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MetroStars	11	6	2	3	14	10	20
Chicago Fire	11	5	3	3	21	16	18
New England	11	4	4	3	17	16	16
Columbus Crew	12	4	3	5	16	18	15
DC United	11	2	6	3	12	10	12

USA – WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Jose	11	6	3	2	16	13	21
Kansas City	12	5	5	2	24	19	20
LA Galaxy	13	2	6	5	12	15	12
Dallas Burn	10	2	3	5	13	18	9
Colorado Rapids	12	2	3	7	11	21	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS
8 Ante Razov (Chicago Fire)
7 Preki (Kansas City Wizards)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

May 30: Ismaili (Egy) 6 AS Port Louis 2000 (Mrs) 0 *Ismaili 7-0 on agg*; USM Alger (Alg) 2 Stade Malien (Mli) 0 *USM Alger 3-1 on agg.*
May 31: Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 0 Enyimba (Nig) 0 *Enyimba 4-0 on agg.*
June 1: ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 1 Hassania Agadir (Mor) 0 *ASEC 1-0 on agg*; Canon Yaounde (Cam) 3 FC St Eloi Lupopo (DRC) 1 *Canon 3-1 on agg*; Esperance (Tun) 6 Highlanders (Zim) 0 *Esperance 7-1 on agg*; Hearts of Oak (Gha) 2 AS Aviacao (Ang) 0 *AS Aviacao 3-2 on agg*; Zamalek (Egy) 1 Simba SC (Tan) 0 *Agg 1-1. Simba 3-2 on pens.*

CUP-WINNERS CUP

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

May 30: Al Hilal (Sud) 0 Baladeyet Al Mehalla (Egy) 0 *Baladeyet 4-2 on agg*; Hafia (Gui) 0 Africa Sports (IvC) 2 *Africa Sports 3-2 on agg.*
May 31: Julius Berger (Nig) 3 Costa do Sol (Moz) 1 *Julius Berger 4-2 on agg*; Power Dynamos (Zam) 1 Kenya Pipeline (Ken) 0 *Power Dynamos 3-0 on agg.*
June 1: Asante Kotoko (Gha) 3 Mount Cameroon (Cam) 2 *Asante Kotoko 5-4 on agg*; Club Olympique (Mli) 2 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 0 *Etoile Sahel 4-2 on agg*; Etoile du Congo (Con) 1 APR FC (Rwa) 2 *APR 5-1 on agg*; Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 4 Al Hilal (Lby) 0 *Wydad 6-2 on agg.*

CAF CUP

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

May 30: Raja Casablanca (Mor) 6 FC 105 Libreville (Gab) 1 *Raja 7-3 on agg.*
May 31: Al Ahly (Egy) 2 Anasser (Lby) 0 *Al Ahly 4-1 on agg*; Club Africain (Tun) 6 JCA (IvC) 0 *Club Africain 6-2 on agg*; St Michel United (Sey) 1 Green Buffaloes (Zam) 2 *Green Buffaloes 7-1 on agg.*
June 1: Black Rhinos (Zim) 2 Kiyovu Sport (Rwa) 0 *Black Rhinos 2-1 on agg*; Cotonsport (Cam) 2 Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf) 0 *Cotonsport 2-1 on agg*; Daring Club Motema Pembe (DRC) 1 Enugu Rangers (Nig) 0 *Enugu Rangers 2-1 on agg*; JS Kabylie (Alg) 0 AS Sonacos (Sen) 0 *Agg 1-1. JS Kabylie on away goals.*

ALGERIA

ALGERIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USM Alger	30	17	7	6	52	17	58
USM Blida	30	14	9	7	32	22	51
NA Hussein-Dey	30	13	12	5	32	24	51
JS Kabylie	30	13	10	7	38	24	49
CR Belouizdad	30	12	9	9	28	20	45
MC Oran	30	11	10	9	41	40	43
ES Setif	30	10	9	11	32	36	39
USM Annaba	30	9	12	9	31	33	39
RC Kouba	30	8	14	8	33	32	38
JSM Bejaia	30	10	8	12	18	23	38
WA Tlemcen	30	9	9	12	29	28	36
CA Batna	30	9	9	12	17	23	36
ASO Chlef	30	7	13	10	25	30	34
CA BB Arreridj	30	9	7	14	24	40	34
ASM Oran	30	7	6	17	18	41	27
MO Constantine	30	6	8	16	29	46	26

ALGERIAN CUP – Final

June 12 - Mustapha Tchaker stadium, Blida
USM Alger 2 (Ghoul pen 39, Ouichaoui 117 - golden goal)
CR Belouizdad 1 (Rouaighia 56)
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 1-1

EGYPT

EGYPT – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zamalek	26	21	4	1	57	10	67
Al Ahly	26	21	3	2	53	13	66
Ismaili	26	13	7	6	35	22	46
ENBE	26	11	9	6	33	19	42
Sawahel	26	11	8	7	30	21	41
Al Masry	26	9	6	11	22	26	33
Ghazl Al-Mehalla	26	7	10	9	22	25	31
Baladiyyat	26	8	7	11	21	29	31
Ittihad	26	9	4	13	24	36	31
Al Tersana	26	8	6	12	32	43	30
Mansoura	26	7	8	11	20	26	29
Arab Contractors	26	5	13	8	23	25	28
Goldy	26	4	4	18	19	43	16
Aswan	26	2	3	21	15	68	9

KENYA

Championship Final

June 1 - Nyayo National stadium, Nairobi
Tusker 1 (Madegwa 72)
Nzoia Sugar 2 (Echesea 22, Mwalala 62)
HT: 0-1

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Orlando Pirates	30	18	7	5	41	16	61
SuperSport Utd	30	16	7	7	54	37	55
Wits University	30	15	9	6	39	29	54
Moroka Swallows	30	15	8	7	52	36	53
Golden Arrows	30	15	6	9	33	27	51
Kaizer Chiefs	30	14	8	8	42	26	50
Dynamos	30	12	4	14	39	37	40
Jomo Cosmos	30	10	10	10	33	34	40
Santos	30	11	6	13	33	28	39
M'lodi Sundowns	30	11	6	13	30	30	39
Black Leopards	30	11	3	16	40	42	36
Manning Rangers	30	9	8	13	31	39	35
Ajax Cape Town	30	9	6	15	31	44	33
Hellenic	30	10	3	17	33	47	33
Umtata BB	30	8	7	15	29	47	31
African Wanderers	30	4	6	20	21	62	18

ASIA

JAPAN

FIRST STAGE

JAPAN – 1ST STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jubilo Iwata	10	6	3	1	24	10	21
JEF United	10	6	2	2	23	12	20
Kashima Antlers	10	6	1	3	14	10	19
Grampus Eight	10	4	6	0	12	8	18
Yokohama FM	10	5	2	3	17	13	17
Kashiwa Reysol	10	5	2	3	15	11	17
Cerezo Osaka	10	5	1	4	23	22	16
FC Tokyo	10	4	3	3	10	10	15
Urawa Reds	10	4	2	4	17	17	14
Gamba Osaka	10	3	3	4	18	18	12
Vissel Kobe	10	4	0	6	11	14	12
Vegalta Sendai	10	3	2	5	10	13	11
Shimizu S-Pulse	10	3	1	6	15	17	10
Tokyo Verdy	10	3	0	7	14	24	9
Oita Trinita	10	2	2	6	9	15	8
Kyoto PS	10	2	0	8	9	27	6

SOUTH KOREA

June 14: Suwon 1 Daejeon 2; Bucheon 2 Anyang 4; Pohang 1 Chunnam 2.
June 15: Songnam 1 Ulsan 2; Gwangju 2 Busan 1; Chonbuk 1 Daegu 1.
June 18: Daejeon 0 Ulsan 4; Suwon 0 Busan 0; Songnam 3 Anyang 3; Gwangju 1 Chunnam 2; Bucheon 0 Chonbuk 1; Daegu 0 Pohang 1.
June 21: Pohang 1 Bucheon 0; Busan 2 Daejeon 0; Ulsan 3 Daegu 0.
June 22: Chonbuk 4 Gwangju 2; Songnam 1 Chunnam 1; Anyang 2 Suwon 2.
June 25: Ulsan 1 Busan 0; Daejeon 1 Anyang 1; Chunnam 1 Suwon 2; Songnam 3 Chonbuk 2; Gwangju 0 Pohang 1; Daegu 0 Bucheon 0.

SOUTH KOREA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Songnam	15	9	4	2	28	14	31
Ulsan	16	9	3	4	26	15	30
Chonbuk	16	8	5	3	27	20	29
Daejeon	16	8	3	5	17	17	27
Anyang	16	6	8	2	27	21	26
Chunnam	16	5	7	4	21	19	22
Suwon	16	5	7	4	16	16	22
Pohang	16	6	3	7	20	22	21
Busan	15	4	3	8	14	22	15
Gwangju	16	4	3	9	18	27	15
Daegu	16	2	7	7	10	18	13
Bucheon	16	0	5	11	13	26	5

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA: CH'SHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth Glory	10	8	0	2	27	7	27 [3]
Sydney Olympic	10	4	1	5	17	14	19 [6]
Adelaide City	10	5	2	3	19	14	17
Parramatta Power	10	3	4	3	16	21	13
Northern Spirit*	9	2	2	5	7	22	8
Newcastle Utd*	9	2	1	6	9	17	7

Bonus pts from regular season in brackets
**Northern Spirit v Newcastle Utd's 9th round game was officially cancelled after twice being postponed and since it had no bearing on the outcome of the championship*

Top two qualified for Grand Final

Grand Final

June 1 - Subiaco Oval, Perth
Perth Glory 2 (Harnwell 29, Mori 87)
Sydney Olympic 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,111. **Ref:** Shield

NEW ZEALAND

Championship Grand Final

June 15 - North Harbour stadium, Auckland
East Auckland 2 (Waetford pen 45, Waugh 68)
Miramar Rangers 3 (Ryan 20, 59, 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Walker

Star treatment

Sid Lowe sees Real Madrid's 'galacticos' clinch the championship on the final day of the season

Big prize...Madrid's Figo holds aloft the imposing championship trophy

MONEY can't buy you love, but who cares when it can buy you a championship? Despite Real Sociedad's amazing challenge, 'galactic' Real Madrid are La Liga winners for the 29th time.

Two goals from last summer's superstar signing, Ronaldo, and a Roberto Carlos free-kick were enough to defeat Athletic Bilbao 3-1 at home on the final day, making second-placed Real Sociedad's 3-0 victory over Atletico Madrid irrelevant.

Ronaldo opened the scoring only for Athletic to grab a first-half equaliser through Bittor Alkiza, but Madrid's championship rarely seemed in doubt. Roberto Carlos put the home side ahead on the stroke of half-time, and while news that Real Sociedad had gone 2-0 up increased the tension in a radio-infested Bernabeu, Ronaldo's superb, quick-fire finish five minutes later ended this season's race.

While victory over Athletic was the consummation of Madrid's title, the previous two weeks had a greater impact on the destiny of the championship. Having topped the table virtually all season, the pressure seemed to get to Spain's great revelations, Real Sociedad. Raynald Denoueix's side were within touching distance but two vital slips allowed the aristocrats from the capital to pip them.

Top by a point with three games remaining, Sociedad's first golden opportunity came after Madrid managed only a 1-1 home draw against an ultra-defensive, Champions League-chasing Celta Vigo. Real Sociedad played Valencia in San Sebastian the following night, knowing that victory would put them three points (plus their head-to-head record) clear with just six points to play for.

Instead, they managed only a 1-1 draw, and while it kept them top by a point – a position Denoueix naturally insisted was "fantastic" – the feeling was that a chance had been wasted.

Sociedad's players trudged off the pitch with their heads dropped, which spoke volumes. They had taken the lead with a Xabi Alonso header, only for Valencia to equalise immediately with a fortunate, deflected goal. The home side were over-eager, sloppy and unable to grab what would have been a virtual championship-clinching winner, despite having a series of chances and playing against only 10 men following the dismissal of Valencia defender Roberto Ayala on the hour.

Mentally, it was a devastating blow for Sociedad – and a revitalising relief for Madrid. Their keeper, Iker Casillas, had publicly given up the chase the night before, but his side were suddenly back in it. As sporting director Jorge Valdano put it: "La Real [Sociedad] had the League in their hands and they've let it get away."

The following week came Real Sociedad's second chance, courtesy of the Madrid derby – surely, the leaders could count on the help of Real Madrid's sworn enemies, Atletico, the same side they would be facing themselves on the final day?

It could have been the ultimate act of football rivalry. Atletico could finally celebrate their ill-fated centenary in style – by torpedoing their rivals' bid for the title. The fans were rubbing their hands in glee: it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to get one over on Real Madrid. All their team had to do was win the Madrid derby at home and obligingly lie down in San Sebastian the following weekend.

There was, however, a flaw: Atletico were having a horrendous last third of the season, winning just two in 13 games, and were no match for their neighbours. Real were a goal up after just seven minutes, led 3-0 after half an hour and ran out insultingly easy 4-0 winners, with two goals each for Raul and Ronaldo.

Meanwhile, Real Sociedad were losing 3-2 at Celta, who thus confirmed their place in next year's Champions League alongside Real Madrid, Sociedad and Deportivo La Coruna. Suddenly, Madrid were virtually champions, top by two points with just one weekend left.

Now Sociedad needed a helping hand from their Basque rivals, UEFA Cup-chasing Athletic Bilbao, to beat Madrid on the final day. Madrid would wrap up the title if neighbours Atletico defeated Real Sociedad or held them to a draw.

For the unlucky Basques it was a bridge too far, Madrid winning the League by beating Athletic and in the process helping their arch-rivals Barcelona into the UEFA Cup. Barça, 2-0 victors over already holidaying Celta, thus rescued a disastrous season in what was Joan Laporta's first match as president. Valencia took the other UEFA Cup place.

At the other end there was none of the usual final-day heartache. Recreativo, Rayo Vallecano and 2001 UEFA Cup finalists Alaves had already had their relegation confirmed weeks in advance.

Second Division champions Murcia, Zaragoza and Albacete will replace them next season. Murcia's promotion comes as perhaps the greatest shock: asked for the secret, eccentric manager David Vidal replied: "Don't ask me – my aim was to keep us up. God knows how this happened!"

A season to savour

Paddy Agnew reports on a highly satisfactory year for the Italian game

WHAT a difference 12 months can make. In midsummer 2002, Italian football was heading for a new low after an ignominious early exit from the World Cup and a club season during which they registered a third successive whitewash in Europe.

By mid-June 2003, we had not only experienced the all-Italian Champions League Final between Juventus and Milan at Old Trafford but also seen the national team claim their fifth successive win of the calendar year, beating Finland 2-0 in Helsinki to put them back on course to qualify for Euro 2004.

If the Italian sports media greeted the Champions League Final with over-the-top, triumphalist noises, such as calling it "the game of the century", Italy's win in Finland was greeted with measured relief.

"Notwithstanding alternating moments of darkness and light, we got the result we had hoped for," commented Gianni Mura in *La Repubblica*.

In truth, although Italy were not nearly as impressive as they had been against Finland in a 2-0 win in Palermo in March, they did the business efficiently in Helsinki. Having ridden out a bright opening from the Finns, Italy opened the scoring through Francesco Totti after 30 minutes. From that point, they appeared in control, containing a Finnish fightback before Alessandro Del Piero wrapped up matters 17 minutes from the end.

For coach Giovanni Trapattoni, victory was a major vindication. Under pressure since the World Cup exit at the hands of South Korea, Trapattoni's position seemed untenable in the wake of last October's 2-1 defeat by Wales in Cardiff. Berated by the media, with senior players such as Del Piero and Christian Vieri going public with criticism of Italy's over-defensive tactics at the World Cup and with only one win in five games since then, Trapattoni's reign seemed certain to end before Christmas.

'Il Trap', however, stubbornly refused to bite the bullet and resign, arguing he could guide the team back in the sort of form that had allowed them to qualify so convincingly for the World Cup. In the end financial considerations, the Milan-Juventus lobby and the non-availability of the few coaches experienced enough for such a post probably saved Trapattoni's skin, against all the odds.

Unwilling to pay two national team coaches, given that Trapattoni had refused to resign and would therefore still be entitled to his salary, the federation was further blocked when the first, most likely successor, Dino Zoff, was roundly opposed by the Milan-Juventus lobby, which curiously felt the Euro 2000 coach represented a step back.

Trapattoni's situation was also helped by the fact that the only two other serious candidates, Fabio Capello of Roma and Marcello Lippi of Juventus, were otherwise engaged and would not become available until this summer, at the earliest. (At press time, Capello now looks potentially 'available', given his disagreements with Roma boss Franco Sensi).

More by default than merit then, Trap has stayed in the saddle and looks destined to remain there until the end of the qualifying group. Given the June qualifying results, the worst Italy can now expect is to finish second to Wales.

"We've still got a chance of winning this group," said Trapattoni. "The next match is Serbia v Wales and the Serbs cannot afford another shambles. Mind you, the only thing that counts now is that we take all the points available to us."

As he prepares for an autumn campaign that could yet see Italy face the lottery of the play-offs, Trapattoni can take heart from the knowledge that in the past six months he has 'blooded' a number of players – strikers Fabrizio Miccoli and Bernardo Corradi, midfielder Simone Perrotta, and defenders Massimo Oddo and Nicola Legrottaglie – who could all yet prove useful to the national cause.

Play-off changes

Other end-of-season news concerns relegation and promotion, present and future. The present relates to the Serie B title won by Siena, who will thus be making a first appearance in Serie A, where they will be joined by 'old hands' Sampdoria, Lecce and Ancona. On the relegation front, Atalanta will join Piacenza, Como and Torino in Serie B, having lost a play-off with Reggina for the final Serie A spot.

This brings us to the question of future play-offs for Serie A and B. With a view to reviving interest in end-of-season, bottom-of-the-table games and with an eye on increased revenue from extra matches, a Football League assembly in late June ordered two short-term assessments of just how the play-offs could function in the context of the 18-club Serie A and 20-club Serie B.

In future, sides finishing second, third and fourth from bottom in Serie A may not be automatically relegated but instead play in a series of play-offs with the three clubs just above them. Likewise the same system could be applied to the second, third and fourth finishers in Serie B, who could be obliged to go into play-offs with the fifth, sixth and seventh clubs in order to win promotion. If the proposals are approved they could be introduced next season.

In the meantime, the League and federation may yet be faced with an awkward situation regarding Sicilian club Catania, who finished in the Serie B relegation zone but are refusing to go down quietly. Catania have resorted to the state magistrature to have their relegation overruled on the grounds that their 1-1 home draw with Siena on April 12 was "irregular" because their opponents fielded defender Davide Martinelli.

Martinelli had missed Siena's previous game against Napoli because of suspension but on the same day turned out for the youth team. Catania claimed Martinelli broke federation rules by playing on a day he was meant to have served his ban.

After a series of federation tribunals heard the case and eventually confirmed the results and League table, things were turned on their heads in early June when a Regional Appeals Court in Catania ordered the League to change the final standings in Serie B, 'awarding' Catania a 2-0 win over Siena.

The matter does not rest there. While federation president Franco Carraro admits the rules need to be tightened, he and CONI, Italian sport's ruling body, are united in resisting the principle whereby state magistrature can overrule the autonomy of sports federation decisions. This one could run and run.

Jump to it...Italy's Cristiano Zanetti is hustled by Mika Vayrynen of Finland during the *Azzurri's* win in Helsinki

Strutting his stuff...Michael Ballack showed in the Final that he is among the world's best attacking midfielders

Cup rounds off Bayern banquet

Nick Bidwell sees the Bavarians win yet another Double

BAYERN MUNICH may have choked on the Champions League main course last autumn, but they had a strong enough constitution to devour all put before them domestically, completing their fourth Double by beating Kaiserslautern 3-1 in the German Cup Final.

The end-of-season showpiece in front of a 70,000 full house at Berlin's revamped Olympic stadium will not go down as a classic. Indeed, the contest was effectively over after only 10 minutes, with Bayern two goals up thanks to a brace from man of the match Michael Ballack: a header from an Owen Hargreaves free-kick and a penalty.

Too many Lautern players had an off-day; too many seemed in awe of the Bayern star ensemble. "I had to rant and rage at my team at half-time," revealed Kaiserslautern coach Eric Gerets. "The feeling I had was that they had given up."

But Gerets' sound and fury changed little during the second half. Bayern continued to toy with their opponents and underlined their total dominance with a brilliant third goal after 50 minutes. Peruvian striker Claudio Pizarro exchanged passes with Ballack, nutmegged Nzelo Lembi and clipped the ball over keeper Tim Weise.

For the remainder of the game, Bayern switched to exhibition mode, while all the *Lauterer* could muster was a deserved red card for Bulgarian midfielder Marian Hristov for hacking down Giovane Elber and a late consolation from Miroslav Klose.

"By achieving the Double, we have completely made up for our early Champions League exit," said Bayern vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. "Our disappointing results in Europe caused us so much pain, and next season the aim must be to go much, much further in that competition. We have learned the lesson that you can never win in the Champions League by all-out attacking.

"Tonight we controlled matters from end to end, and you could see how important Michael Ballack is to us. He seized the reins in midfield, dictated everything. In Stefan Effenberg we used to have a great midfield general but one who tended to stay in a central position and had others to do the running for him. In contrast, the amount of ground Ballack covers is unbelievable.

"Michael plays intelligently and always looks to do something decisive. Perhaps he's the best goalscoring midfielder in the world."

Kaiserslautern consolation

In the Kaiserslautern camp everyone knew they had not remotely done themselves justice. But no one was particularly depressed. They had already produced one miracle in avoiding relegation from the Bundesliga after looking doomed at the winter break. Now, as runners-up in the German Cup, they could look forward to next season's UEFA Cup.

Any income generated from a run in Europe will be most welcome at Kaiserslautern. The club had been told by the Bundesliga that unless they cleared debts of £46million, they would not be granted a professional licence. With the prospect of Third Division football staring them in the face, they had no option but to sell their ground and training facilities to a holding company owned by the city authorities. Over the next 25 years, Lautern will have to pay an annual rent of £2.3m to play at the Fritz-Walter-Stadion, though they will have the opportunity to buy it back in 2028.

Needless to say, money will be tight there for some time, and if economic restraints were not bad enough, they must also start next season on the -3 point mark, a punishment for licensing infringements relating to the 1997-98 campaign.

Incidentally, coach Gerets was reported to be among the candidates for the vacant job at Schalke. However, like others on the shortlist such as Stuttgart's Felix Magath, ex-Leverkusen boss Klaus Toppmoller and Basle's Christian Gross, the Belgian was not tempted. After much to-ing and fro-ing, Schalke general manager Rudi Assauer finally plumped for Jupp Heynckes, who for the past eight years has worked exclusively in the Iberian peninsula with Tenerife, Real Madrid, Benfica and Athletic Bilbao.

"To qualify only for the InterToto Cup was an intense disappointment," said Assauer. "I won't allow 10 years of good work to be squandered. With his great experience and football philosophy I'm convinced Jupp Heynckes can take us forward. He has made a very positive impression on me."

Collision course

Once a top striker for Borussia Monchengladbach and West Germany, the 58-year-old Heynckes certainly has achieved much as a coach. He led Real Madrid to victory in the Champions League in 1998 and Bayern Munich to a pair of national championship titles (1989 and 1990). Yet his appointment is not without risks. The fact that he has not coached in Germany since a spell at Eintracht Frankfurt in the mid-1990s means there may be more than a little Bundesliga revision for him to do, while his authoritarian management style will not sit easily with all the big egos and loud voices in the Schalke squad.

Many in Germany remember what happened the last time the uncompromising Heynckes put himself on a collision course with Bundesliga superstars who did not share his work ethic. While at Eintracht, a blazing training ground row with Tony Yeboah, Maurizio Gaudino and Jay-Jay Okocha led to all three going on strike.

"It's very pleasing to be wanted by a club of Schalke's standing," said Heynckes. "It was nice to hear Rudi Assauer say that the team was in good hands. I'm glad to have come back to my roots. I don't think it will be a problem that I haven't coached in Germany for some time. I have 23 years' experience as a player and coach in the Bundesliga to call on.

"Discipline is not my invention. It's needed in all walks of life, not just football. I think every top coach would have the same attitude about it. In all my clubs I've had a good relationship with the players, one based on mutual respect."

A case of selective memory, perhaps?

Royal reprieve

Prince Albert helps Monaco win their appeal against relegation but the price may be the president's head. Nick Bidwell reports

WHAT was that about men in glass houses? Less than a year after warning his players of the dangers of spending too much time at the principality's famous casino, Monaco president Jean-Louis Campora was in danger of losing big himself this summer, needing an appeal to stave off the club's demotion to the Second Division because of massive debts.

The initial decision of the French League's financial watchdog (DNCG) to relegate the Monegasques was certainly harsh on coach Didier Deschamps and the players, who had produced some great football last season to finish second in the championship and beat Sochaux in the League Cup Final. But given the debilitated state of Monaco's accounts, the authorities had little choice but to open the trapdoor.

In the red to the tune of £63million – they recorded a loss of £40m last season alone – Monaco were in a calamitous position. Repeated promises from Campora that foreign knights in shining armour would soon be arriving with aid proved nothing more than wishful thinking.

Once-interested buyers such as Finmatica (Italy), Apis (Switzerland) and Vantis Group (England) finally faded from view, and the best Campora could offer the DNCG were vague promises of monetary assistance from would-be benefactors. It was not nearly enough.

While Campora has rarely been one for transparency, for airing questions of finance in the public domain, those stories that did break eloquently told the story of a club out of control. Last September, a £15m loan from the Compagnie Monegasque de Banque was needed to meet their wage commitments, and shortly before Christmas there was the major embarrassment of an abortive takeover bid.

Monaco's Russian shirt sponsors, Fedcominvest, had struck a deal with Campora to buy the club, agreeing to absorb their debts and pump in some £80m over three years. But in Monte Carlo, all important decisions concerning the club have to be ratified by the royal family. Following revelations in *Le Monde* newspaper that the French secret service had once described Fedcominvest as the "shop window of Eastern European organised crime", Prince Rainier vetoed the acquisition.

If the club remained holed below the waterline, Campora was sinking as well. After 25 years as president, his credibility had been destroyed by the club's crippling debts and the royal veto of his scheme to sell out to Fedcominvest. He was finished as a politician, too, losing his seat in the Monegasque parliament early this year.

Many factors have contributed to Monaco's desperate plight. Their absence from European competition in the past two seasons deprived them of vital income, while the collapse of the continental transfer market was equally damaging. Unwanted players simply could not be shipped out, leaving the club with a top-heavy professional squad of 35 players and attendant spiralling wages.

Monaco's financial woes were exacerbated by recent changes to laws governing subsidies given to football clubs. Once upon a time, French professional outfits depended heavily on cash windfalls from city and regional government, but in 1999 new legislation was passed to severely restrict them. Five years ago, for example, Monaco received £5m from the Monte Carlo exchequer; now the figure is a little over £1m, all of which goes towards the upkeep of the club's youth academy.

Monaco were able to save their top-flight skin at the eleventh hour, and much of the credit has to go to Prince Rainier's son, Prince Albert. Always an enthusiastic supporter of the team and keen to keep the majority of shares in Monegasque hands, he came to the fore in the club's hour of need. Notably, Albert was involved in the setting up in spring of MFI (Monaco Football Investments), a grouping of Monte Carlo businessmen, who proceeded to buy a slice of club stock.

It was their injection of £3.8m in May that allowed Monaco to complete the season normally and their copper-bottomed promises to add another £23m to the pot that persuaded the DNCG to reconsider their decision to relegate the club. The new money men are rumoured to have invested on one condition – that Campora falls on his sword.

Prince Albert says he will do all in his power to hold on to the players "who defended our colours so well last season and proved themselves winners". Yet it may be too late already. Even though First Division football will be on the menu in the principality next season, some star names may still have to go.

Shabani Nonda, France's top scorer last term, has already signed for champions Lyon and could soon be followed out of the door by midfielders Jerome Rothen and Ludovic Giuly, and Mexican centre-back Rafael Marquez.

● Auxerre beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 in the French Cup Final thanks to a last-minute winner from defender Jean-Alain Boumsong. Hugo Leal, later sent off, had put PSG ahead before Djibril Cisse grabbed an equaliser.

It can't get much worse...Prince Rainier and Monaco president Jean-Louis Campora reflect on the club's misfortunes

Heads up...Owen rises to score England's winner against Slovakia

Owen chalks up another milestone

MICHAEL OWEN, captain in the absence of the suspended David Beckham, reminded everyone of his ability to rise to the big occasion when scoring both England goals in the 2-1 defeat of Slovakia at Middlesbrough.

The Euro 2004 qualifier was Owen's 50th international. At the age of 23, he thus became the youngest Englishman to reach a half-century of caps.

Owen's goals – a penalty and a well-taken header – rescued a mediocre England performance, which had threatened to turn to embarrassment when Slovakia took the lead in the first half after David James failed to make contact with Vladimir Janocko's free-kick.

The contrast between Owen and Beckham could not be more marked. Although they share the same agent, SFX, Owen does not share Beckham's obsession with self-promotion. While Beckham and his wife Victoria spent what was left of the summer break on a promotional tour of the Far East, plugging chocolate, petrol and cosmetics, Owen spent time with his newborn daughter. After the birth, Owen and his partner Louise released one picture and asked for the media to make donations to charity in return for its publication.

So far, so quiet in the transfer market (see page 10), but on the managerial front, David O'Leary, sacked by Leeds a year ago, joined Aston Villa after Graham Taylor quit what is likely to be his last job as a manager.

Gavin Hamilton

SCOTLAND

Rangers face sell-off

RANGERS manager Alex McLeish has proved his ability by steering the side to all three major domestic trophies in 2002-03. But he now faces losing a number of key players as the heavily-indebted club strive to lighten their gargantuan wage bill.

Captain Lorenzo Amoruso – the scorer of the only goal in the Scottish Cup Final win over Dundee – appears certain to join former Rangers boss Graeme Souness at Blackburn. Others heading for the exit door include Claudio Caniggia, Arthur Numan and Mikel Arteta.

On the positive side, Dutch striker Michael Mols has signed on for another year, while McLeish has also secured the signature of FC Porto star Nuno Capucho.

Money is also tight at Celtic, and manager Martin O'Neill may well have to do without Scotland defender Stephen Crainey next season. The youngster has asked to be transfer-listed after being told by O'Neill that he could not be guaranteed a regular starting berth. Crainey is frustrated at playing understudy to established overseas stars such as Bobo Balde and Joos Valgaeren.

Alan Fairley

Blackburn-bound...Cup winner Amoruso

WALES

TNS merge with Oswestry

UEFA Cup representatives Total Network Solutions have merged with fellow Premier League side Oswestry Town in a shock move fronted by the TNS company owner, Mike Harris.

Town had insurmountable debts, which Harris has cleared, but their Park Hall ground has development potential, unlike that of TNS, in Llansantffraid, 12 miles from Oswestry. The merged club, who play Manchester City in the UEFA Cup qualifying round in August, will take TNS's name and will play at TNS's Treflan ground in 2003-04 while Park Hall is developed.

Both clubs have fully backed the merger, which means that the top division will have one fewer member next season. Indeed, it is possible there may be only 16 teams – two fewer than last season – after the FA refused to reprieve Welshpool Town from relegation on the grounds that promoted side Neath do not have an adequate stadium to play in the top flight. The League are appealing against the FA's interference.

Wales' second UEFA Cup representatives, Cwmbran Town, have appointed former Newtown manager Brian Coyne as coach. Former Crows boss Tony Wilcox died during the latter part of last season and caretaker Roger Gibbins, who took Cwmbran to the Welsh Cup Final, resigned to take on coaching and media duties.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Scoreless but stirring

THE national team's stirring display in holding Spain to a 0-0 draw in their Euro 2004 qualifier at Windsor Park at last brought cheer to the Irish fans and manager Sammy McIlroy.

Although the team failed to end their goal drought – which now stands at 972 minutes – the 12,000 sell-out crowd left with reason to look to the future with optimism.

Goalkeeper Maik Taylor had a fantastic game, and there were also assured performances from four new boys – defender Chris Baird (Southampton), midfielders Tommy Doherty (Bristol City) and Steve Jones (Crewe Alexandra), and striker Andy Smith (Glentoran).

The quartet made their debuts just the week before during a 2-0 defeat away to Italy. The match was played in the southern town of Campobasso to raise funds for the victims of last year's earthquake in the nearby village of San Guiliano.

Roy Kitson

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Porto's treble triumph

Victory in the Cup completes a season of success for Jose Mourinho's men, writes Alberto da Silva

PORTUGAL

FC PORTO rounded off their storming season by winning the Cup Final, thus completing a treble of UEFA Cup plus domestic Double. A crowd of 40,000 witnessed their 1-0 win over Uniao Leiria at Lisbon's National stadium thanks to a goal from Derlei, who scored twice in the UEFA Cup Final triumph.

Thousands of supporters lined Oporto's Avenida dos Aliados to cheer home their heroes. But club officials had to be received by the council chairman of Vila Nova de Gaia – just over the Douro river from Oporto – because the Oporto council chairman, Rui Rio, is a Boavista supporter and refused to greet them.

The treble is another indication of how Porto, under chairman Pinto da Costa, have been transformed over the past 20 years from merely a good provincial side into a team on a par with Portugal (and Lisbon's) traditional Big Two – Benfica and Sporting.

Porto have already been involved on the transfer market, bringing in Under-21 midfielder Jose Bosingwa from Boavista, with defender Ricardo Silva going the other way, and selling winger Nuno Capucho to Rangers. Coach Jose Mourinho has ended speculation about his own future by extending his contract until 2006.

You beauty...Porto match-winner Derlei kisses the Portuguese Cup

Former Porto coach Fernando Santos has taken charge of Sporting following the departure of Romanian Laszlo Boloni. Santos, a championship winner with Porto in 1999, was most recently at Panathinaikos, but left after only four months at the helm when they lost their first three League matches of the season. Boloni was not offered a new deal by Sporting following their disappointing 2002-03 season.

Boavista have taken the unusual step of appointing current player Erwin Sanchez as their new coach. The 32-year-old Bolivian midfielder, who still has a year to go on his playing contract, takes over from Jaime Pacheco.

Uniao Leiria coach Manuel Cajuda announced before the Cup Final he was leaving to succeed Russian Anatoly Byshovets at Maritimo. Jose Gomes, formerly on Benfica's coaching staff, has replaced Jose Mota at Pacos Ferreira.

Net gain...Mateja Kezman

HOLLAND

PSV grind it out

PSV, under the guidance of *World Soccer* Coach of the Year Guus Hiddink, clinched their 17th League title on the final day of the season. Although the Eindhoven side were never sparkling and relied on solid teamwork they were on top of the table for the whole season.

An uninspiring goalless draw at Groningen proved enough for PSV, who saw off the challenge of Ajax despite dropping a number of points in the last few matches.

The vast experience of Hiddink, who enjoyed such success with South Korea at last year's World Cup, was one of the biggest factors behind PSV's triumph. On the field, the biggest contribution came from Serb striker Mateja Kezman, who scored a remarkable 35 goals.

The title was dedicated to chairman Harry Van Raaij, who has had a difficult season. Not least among his problems has been the scandal involving his intended successor as chairman, commercial director Fons Spooren, who has been charged with sexual abuse and assault. Spooren denies the charges.

Ajax, who finished a point behind PSV, took the second Champions League spot ahead of Feyenoord, who go into the UEFA Cup with NAC Breda, NEC Nijmegen and Utrecht. But NAC will be without coach Henk ten Cate, who has quit because of problems stemming from the club's financial crisis. Utrecht earned their place by beating an exhausted Feyenoord 4-1 in the Cup Final at the Rotterdam side's own De Kuip stadium. However, Utrecht are likely to struggle next term because their financial troubles are forcing the sale of several players, including striker Dirk Kuijt (to Feyenoord).

De Graafschap coach Peter Bosz resigned after the club were relegated. Excelsior also went down, with Den Haag and Volendam promoted

Klaas-Jan Droppert

BELGIUM

Cup win secures La Louviere's future

A WEEK after their very existence seemed in doubt, La Louviere produced one of the biggest shocks in Belgian Cup history by overcoming St Truiden 3-1 in the Final. Nigerian striker Manaseh Ishiaku scored twice.

La Louviere's president, Philippe Gaone, had begun merger talks with Charleroi when his players surpassed themselves to ensure the club could continue in their own right for at least another season. Offers from 10 would-be investors and the prospect of a first venture into Europe via the UEFA Cup gave La Louviere the financial security to carry on.

The Wolves' Cup success was in marked contrast to their struggles in the League – they finished only two places off the relegation zone.

Cercle Brugge and Heusden-Zolder, promoted to the top division, will meet on the first day. The latter are in the top flight for the first time, and were in the Fourth Division only seven years ago.

Nicholas Harling

SWITZERLAND

Grasshopper jump back to the top

RECORD champions Grasshopper clinched their 27th title by a point from Basle after a tense battle.

The Zurich side finished the

championship play-offs undefeated after beating Young Boys 4-2 on the final day. Defending champions Basle were always chasing the game after two defeats earlier in the play-offs.

Grasshopper's Uruguayan midfielder Richard Nunez finished top scorer with 27 goals, having shared the accolade with this season's runner-up – Basle's Argentinian striker Christian Gimenez – last term.

Back home...Ivica Vastic

All is not rosy at Grasshopper, however, after the triumvirate of business tycoons who bankrolled the club when it was in deep financial distress announced they will pull out at the end of next season. Meanwhile, president Peter Widmer has said he will step down this summer.

This was the last championship to be played under the current format, of autumn League campaign followed by championship and relegation/promotion pools. The top flight's 10 clubs (reduced from 12) will now play each other four times in a straight League format.

Aarau and St Gallen survived in the top flight after taking the top two places in the relegation/promotion play-offs. Sion, demoted last season to the Second Division because of their murky financial situation, have been relegated to the inter-regional Liga 1 after being refused a licence to continue in the Second Division for the same reason.

Coach Hans-Peter Zaugg has left Lucerne to join Young Boys, from where Marco Schallibaum has moved to Servette. In turn, Lucian Favre, sacked by Servette after a players' revolt over his authoritarian style, has taken over at FC Zurich.

Ivar von Rulach

AUSTRIA

Vastic joins the champions

AUSTRIA WIEN have continued to spend big after winning their first Double in 11 years, acquiring seven new players "to build a team that can qualify for the Champions League group phase," as newly-appointed head coach Joachim Low put it.

The most prominent signing is 34-year-old attacking midfielder Ivica Vastic, back in the country after an unhappy year with Grampus Eight in Japan. He skippered rivals Sturm Graz to their first two titles – in 1998 and 1999 – but faces a battle for a starting berth at Wien from incumbent Slovakian Vladimir Janocko, Austria's Player of the Year.

Harry Miltner

Round-up

Shelbourne lose at last

DERRY CITY ended leaders Shelbourne's 10-game unbeaten run since the start of the season in the **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND** when winning 2-0 at home in early June. This allowed Shamrock Rovers to close the gap at the top to just one point.

Sean Creedon

Grevenmacher completed their first Double when beating Second Division Etzella Ettelbruck 1-0 in the **LUXEMBOURG** Cup Final nine days after clinching the League. Etzella's consolation was winning promotion back to the top flight.

CA Spora Luxembourg are the other promoted side, with Sporting Mertzig and Progress Niedercorn going down.

Tim Brice

FC Vaduz won the **LIECHTENSTEIN** Cup for the 32nd time with a 6-0 thrashing of Balzers. Man of the match was Thomas Beck, who scored five of the goals. However, Vaduz failed in their bid to reach the Swiss top division after finishing outside the top two in the promotion play-offs.

Graeme Crawford

Pro-file Helder Postiga

Fisherman's son set to net shoals of goals for Tottenham

NETS were always going to feature prominently in the life of rising Portugal star Helder Postiga, who has just joined Tottenham on a five-year contract from treble-winning FC Porto. If he had not developed into a fine striker, he would have been happy to work on his father Manuel's fishing boat. "I'm proud of what he has achieved with FC Porto and our national teams," says Manuel. "But if he wasn't happy in football and joined me, I'm sure he'd make a very successful fisherman as well."

Not that Postiga is ever likely to be seen landing the day's catch on the quayside of the Atlantic port of Varzim. After playing a key role in Porto's triumphs in UEFA Cup, Portuguese League and Cup, the 20-year-old has established himself as his country's most exciting prospect and is now embarking on a Premier League career.

The striker made a rapid rise to prominence at Porto. At the start of the 2002-03 season, it was assumed Postiga would serve as understudy to Lithuanian Edgaras Jankauskas, a summer buy from Real Sociedad. But it was Jankauskas who became the super-sub, while coach Jose Mourinho placed his faith in the youngster's pace, technical subtlety and appetite for goals. "Helder Postiga has the ability to be an outstanding international striker," said Mourinho.

With a regular starting berth, goals aplenty – 13 in the League, six in the UEFA Cup – and rave reviews, Postiga must have felt infallible at times last term. But he was brought down to earth when a senseless red card in the UEFA Cup semi-final, second leg against Lazio meant he was suspended for the Final. On a brighter note, Portugal boss Luiz Felipe Scolari gave Postiga his first cap as a substitute in the February friendly against Italy, and the striker further advanced his cause with two goals in a 4-0 victory over Bolivia in Lisbon in June.

Suddenly, many media pundits are predicting Postiga will lead the line at Euro 2004. But the youngster is much more circumspect. "There are many other good strikers available to the national coach," says Postiga. "Pauleta and Nuno Gomes have great qualities and so much more international experience than me."

He is also level-headed enough to recognise that he is not yet the finished article, saying: "I need to improve my movement in the box and play better when I move out wide."

That said, the fisherman's son is more than capable of bagging any chances that come his way courtesy of unwary Premiership defenders.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Tottenham (Eng)
Country Portugal
Born August 2, 1982, in Povoa de Varzim
Previous clubs Varzim, FC Porto
International debut February 2003, v Italy
International caps 3 (2 goals)
Honours Portuguese League 2003; Portuguese Cup 2003

Hjalte who? brings crown to Copenhagen

Jim Holden on a dramatic finale to the League championship

Prize possession...FC Copenhagen's Peter Nielsen lifts the championship trophy

DENMARK

FC COPENHAGEN effectively snatched the Superliga title by winning 1-0 away to arch-rivals Brondby in the penultimate match of the season thanks to an injury-time winner from rookie substitute Hjalte Bo Norregaard. The 22-year-old midfielder, who had never scored before and was little-known outside the club, converted a cross by full-back Ole Tobiasen to send Copenhagen's fans into ecstasy.

The victory put the club back above Brondby by two points, after appearing to have blown their chances three days before with a 0-0 draw at Esbjerg. They made sure of the title on the last day with a 4-1 home victory over AGF Aarhus.

Amazingly, Norregaard scored in that game too. The youngster admitted after the Brondby game that he had no idea how to celebrate his goal, and went racing round the pitch waving his No 25 shirt in the air. Later that night he watched it all again on TV and then went out to eat some junk food because he couldn't sleep.

The championship outcome was a massive let-down for Brondby, who had been on course to take the championship in Michael Laudrup's first season as manager and had played the best football for most of the spring campaign. But they choked in the final straight, even contriving to lose 4-3 to already-relegated Silkeborg on the last day.

Their one consolation was that they took the Danish Cup with a 3-0 victory over Midtjylland in the Final. They thus go into the UEFA Cup, with Farum, the surprise third-place finishers in the League, among the other qualifiers.

Koge were the other side to be relegated, with Herfolge and Frem taking their places in the top flight.

NORWAY

Norwegians wilt

THE great media and public interest in Norway's Scandinavian derby with Denmark in the Euro 2004 qualifiers appeared to drain the players since they put in a very disappointing performance during the 1-0 defeat in Copenhagen.

The Norwegians struggled to find any rhythm having gone behind to a fifth-minute goal from Jesper Gronkjaer and deservedly lost to a far-from-impressive Danish side.

A controversial penalty, converted by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, salvaged a point for Norway against Romania four days later in Oslo to keep them in the hunt for a finals place. Though there was clearly a handball in the Romanian box, TV replays appeared to show it may have been Norway's John Carew who had touched it.

In the League, Rosenborg are well on their way to securing their 12th consecutive title having established a 10-point lead after 11 of the 26 rounds. The 5-0 thrashing of Molde in mid-June was their best performance yet. Their opponents were playing under new coach Odd Berg, a goalscoring hero with Molde in the 1970s. He took the reins after the departure of Swedish boss Gunder Bengtson in the wake of the club's poor start to the season.

Rosenborg new boy...Torjus Hansen

Berg's emphasis on attacking football paid immediate dividends with home victories against Tromso and Brann. But as the Rosenborg result shows, Molde continue to struggle away.

On the transfer front, Rosenborg have sold Finn Janne Saarinen to 1860 Munich but bought a fine replacement in former Lillestrom defender Torjus Hansen from relegated German club Armenia Bielefeld.

Bryne forward Kim Rune Hellesund has been the most exciting player to emerge so far this season after scoring eight goals in his first nine matches.

Sigurd Odegaard

SWEDEN

Money paying off for AIK

SUDDENLY, AIK coach Richard Money is the talk of the town in Stockholm. The former Liverpool defender was a low-profile replacement for Dusan Uhrin last autumn, but he has done a good job in putting AIK back on track. Indeed, after 11 rounds, his side were third in the League, two points behind joint leaders Djurgardens and Hammarby.

It seems Money has brought with him a bag of traditional British virtues. "I want AIK to be a tough team, full of fighting spirit," he says. "I am not going to make any compromises. You either love or hate us."

There was certainly plenty of fight in the recent derby match against Djurgardens, with AIK snatching a draw having been 3-0 down to the champions with just over 15 minutes to go. Sammy Ayorinde netted the equaliser in injury time.

AIK are the most difficult Swedish club to coach because of the fans' volatility and huge expectations. But so far, Money's blunt style has gone down well.

One player who has blossomed under the coach is forward Mats Rubarth. Injury-prone and often erratic in the past, he has been one of the most talked-about players in the League this season.

Pentti Hietanen

Give Celtic their due

I MUST protest at the complete lack of balance in Keir Radnedge's report on the UEFA Cup Final. While I do not disagree that the more technically competent and sophisticated team won, it is nonsense to suggest Celtic were outclassed. Technical adroitness and class are key ingredients of any successful team at this level, but so are courage and a refusal to accept defeat.

Radnedge's perspective seems to suggest Porto's theatrics in the face of every challenge and the nonsense of the celebrations for the second and third goals were another element of their continental sophistication, while Celtic's 'physical' approach was evidence of their lack of such.

Radnedge notes Martin O'Neill did not dispute the sending-off of Balde, but that was on the basis of the second challenge, the first having already earned him a yellow card. The first tackle was actually fair, if vigorous, with Balde winning the ball cleanly. Deco's triple somersault was what attracted the referee's attention and sanction.

Perhaps for the worshipper of the big leagues and the so-called great teams that inhabit them, such as Radnedge, a Final involving a Scottish team was an aberration. It may well be some time before we see another. What cannot be denied is that it was the performance of that team that made this Final a memorable one.

George Murray, via e-mail

GAVIN HAMILTON replies: We received many letters from Celtic fans on the subject. To tackle Porto's diving, Keir Radnedge wrote that Porto "leaned theatrically on the spirit of the law every time they fell under a Celtic tackle". That's a pretty harsh criticism, if you ask me.

In my opinion, as an impartial observer, Celtic were as bad as Porto. They set out with the intention of stopping Porto from playing. Their bad tackles were far more likely to do long-term harm than diving by the Porto players.

Diving, however, is an unpleasant part of Latin football culture – so in headlining the report 'Culture clash', I think we accurately reflected the different schools of thought.

These days, the UEFA Cup is a sideshow to the Champions League. Lest we forget: Celtic were only in the UEFA Cup because they were beaten by Basle in the Champions League qualifying round.

Please mark your correspondence 'Letters page' and send to:
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Fax: +44 (0) 20 7261 7474
E-mail: worldsoccerletters@ipcmedia.com

FINLAND

Muurinen vows to stay on

THE national team's slim hopes of reaching next year's European Championship finals were effectively ended by Italy's 2-0 win in Helsinki on June 11. However, coach Antti Muurinen, whose contract is due to expire at the end of the year, has stated that he wants to carry on.

"I honestly believe we are making good progress," said Muurinen. "Of course, we don't have the strength in depth of Italy, but there are a few interesting players coming through."

One is midfielder Mika Vayrynen, who made one of the most impressive full international debuts for Finland in the 3-0 defeat of Serbia & Montenegro four days before the Italy game.

In the League, HJK's 18-match unbeaten run was ended by promoted TPS Turku, who won 1-0.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Back in the mix

A SPECTACULAR header by substitute Tryggvi Gudmundsson in the dying seconds handed Iceland a 2-1 Euro 2004 qualifying win over the Faroe Islands in Reykjavik in their first outing under caretaker coaches Asgeir Sigurvinsson and Logi Olafsson. Four days later, Iceland leapt up to second place in Group 5 with an emphatic 3-0 win over Lithuania in Kaunas.

The latter game was a personal milestone for Lokeren midfielder Runar Kristinsson, who became the first Icelander to win 100 caps, and also marked the retirement of former skipper Gudni Bergsson.

Back home, perennial escape artists Fram sacked coach Kristinn Runar Jonsson after failing to win any of their first four League games. His replacement is former player Steinar Thor Gudgeirsson.

Rab Christie

CROSSWORD mitre

WIN a top-quality Mitre football

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after August 5 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*. SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: AUGUST CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

ACROSS

1 Basle full-back or midfielder whose father represented Switzerland (8)
6 Sampdoria midfielder transferred to Piacenza in January (4)
7 Coach who led Sporting Lisbon to the Portuguese Double in 2001-02 (6)
9 Defending champions of Brazil (6)
10 Norwegian forward at Club Brugge (5)
11 Northern-most club in the French First Division (5)
14 Club that won both J.League stages in 2002 (6)
16 Roma defender recruited last year from Parma (6)
17 Veteran former Gothenburg and Sweden midfielder in England with Wimbledon (4)
18 Chievo Brazilian banned last year for playing under a false identity (8)

DOWN

2 Basle's Cameroonian midfielder (6)
3 Liverpool and Norway left wing-back (5)
4 Bayer Leverkusen and Germany midfielder (9)
5 Egyptian Ahmed Hossam's nickname (4)
8 Nigeria's coach in 2002 subsequently appointed technical director (9)
12 Romanian keeper in the Ajax squad (6)
13 Coach persuaded to stay with Perugia at the end of 2001-02 (5)
15 Milan-based Turkish utility player loaned back last term to Galatasaray (4)

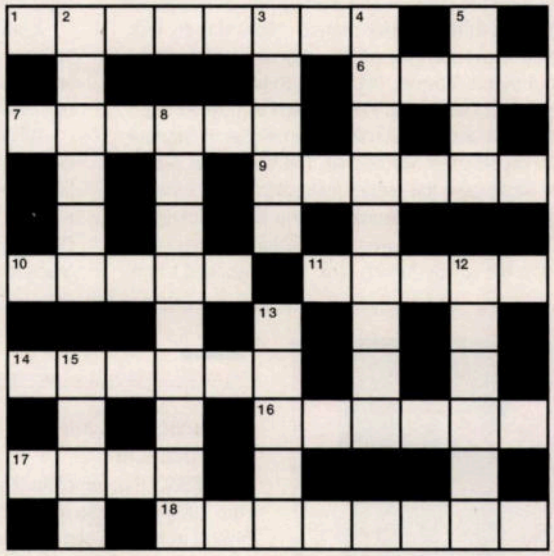
JUNE SOLUTION

Across: 1 Cirillo, 7 Breda, 8 Suffo, 9 Nilsson, 10 Alenichev, 15 De Pedro, 18 Kreek, 19 Moore, 20 Donovan.
Down: 1 Cisse, 2 Rafael, 3 Lyon, 4 Obilic, 5 Nees, 6 Cagna, 11 Nedved, 12 Evseev, 13 Adams, 14 Yakin, 16 Poom, 17 Okan.

JUNE WINNERS

1st prize: Neil Sweeney, Glasgow.
5 runners-up: Michael Dietze, New Jersey, USA; Salahuddin Abdullah Ng, Singapore; Ong Aaron, Brunei Darussalam; Iacovos Hasapis, Cyprus; David Cathill, Aberdeenshire.

● CORRECTION: Clue 12 Down in our July Crossword should have read: "Werder Bremen's coach." Apologies.



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AUGUST (photocopied coupons are acceptable)

Trouble and strife

Suna Erdem on a tense and turbulent week for the national team

Height of the drama...Macedonia's Sasko Lazarevski receives attention after being grounded by a bottle thrown from the crowd

TURKEY

TURKEY showed just how niggled they were by their 2-0 defeat at the hands of main Euro 2004 qualifying rivals England in April during two high-tension matches in June.

The 1-0 defeat of Slovakia in Bratislava was marred by bad-tempered play and overshadowed afterwards by a barrage of accusations against England. Turkey general manager Can Cobanoglu claimed English officials had encouraged their Slovak counterparts to be obstructive towards the Turks by temporarily preventing the players from entering the stadium and fired up Slovak players with transfer offers to the Premier League. "Behind every kick against our players on the pitch, every bit of obstructive behaviour by the Slovaks, I'm willing to bet England is involved," said Cobanoglu. "They want us pushed out."

A few days later, tension was even higher in Istanbul when Turkey received Macedonia. The hosts won 3-2 with goals by Nihat (also the scorer in Slovakia), newcomer Gokdeniz Karadeniz (Trabzonspor), and Hakan Sukur, after twice falling behind. However, most column inches were devoted to the rowdy Turkish fans, who managed to hit Macedonian player Sasko Lazarevski on the head with a bottle as they rained missiles down. Riot police had to be called upon to protect Macedonia's corner-takers.

UEFA has begun an investigation into the incidents, prompting yet more talk of Turkish victimisation. The governing body could well punish Turkey by making them play their final home qualifier, against England, behind closed doors. But the Turks are well aware England escaped with just a fine following a pitch invasion by home supporters during the game against Turkey in Sunderland.

In among all this, there has been room for criticism of Turkey's play. They have certainly been too lax defensively, with Fenerbahce's Fatih Akyel notably prone to giving the ball away too cheaply and in dangerous positions.

While all hell breaks loose around him, coach Senol Gunes has been trying to concentrate on the game, and has clearly seen the need to introduce new players to his experienced but ageing squad. Gokdeniz and Bursaspor's Okan Yilmaz both appeared as substitutes against Macedonia and performed well.

Quick exit...Dejan Savicevic

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Savicevic quits after Baku debacle

THE DEBACLE is complete. The 3-0 Euro 2004 qualifying defeat by Finland in Helsinki and the shameful 2-1 loss in Baku against underdogs Azerbaijan four days later mean Serbia & Montenegro have lost nearly all chance of qualifying for the finals. National coach Dejan Savicevic resigned immediately after the Azerbaijan game, even leaving the dugout before the final whistle blew, ending his 18-month period in sole charge of the team. But FA president Dragan Stojkovic refused to step down, despite accepting responsibility for the disastrous situation.

"All our hopes for Portugal are lost," said Savicevic, whose former charges now lie five points behind Italy, in the runners-up/play-off slot in Group 9, with three games to play.

Those who had illusions about the national team's prospects were shocked by the recent results; those who as long as 10 years ago were predicting that Yugoslav football would go the same way as that of Hungary were furious and demanded radical changes.

As a matter of fact, given the poor state of the domestic game and the string of failures of the national team – five defeats in a row, seven games without a win – it could be said that Serbia & Montenegro (formerly Yugoslavia) have reached their lowest point for more than 70 years. Only in the 1920s and early 1930s, when Yugoslavia were international newcomers, have they ever suffered more than four consecutive defeats.

Stojkovic, like Savicevic a former international, announced that a new national coach would be appointed at the end of July and added that the national team would not give up hope of qualifying for Euro 2004 while it was still mathematically possible to do so. Needless to say, no one in the country is ready to believe in such a miracle. Many are even asking whether Serbia & Montenegro's football is at its lowest point, or whether it could sink yet deeper.

Vladimir Novak

GREECE

Room for Schum at Pana

ITZHAK SCHUM is the new coach of League runners-up Panathinaikos, becoming the first Israeli to take charge of a top-level club outside his homeland.

Schum, who led Maccabi Haifa to the group stages of last season's Champions League (a first for an Israeli club), takes over the position vacated by Uruguayan Sergio Markarian.

"It is an honour for me to work with Panathinaikos, a significant step in my career," said the 54-year-old, who has signed a two-year deal. "It is also an opportunity for me to show my work with a major European team. I know the Greek championship well and what Panathinaikos means."

The club's failure to win the championship – Olympiakos took it by virtue of a better head-to-head League record – also led to the departure of president Angelos Filippidis. His successor is Argiris Mitsou, formerly the team's doctor.

London-based investment

company ENIC now owns a 71 per cent share of AEK Athens after buying the 38 per cent stake held by Ippoventure, a company owned by former AEK boss Makis Psomiadis. The deal comes after Psomiadis was handed a 12-year prison sentence in 2002 for forgery and slander following a probe by the finance ministry.

ENIC also have stakes in a number of other European clubs, including Basle, Slavia Prague, Rangers and Tottenham.

AEK finished third in the Greek League to earn a spot in the Champions League qualifying stages. Meanwhile, PAOK Salonika, Panionios and Aris Salonika will represent Greece in the UEFA Cup.

Panahaiki and Giannina are relegated to the Second Division, with Halkidona and Paniliakos going the other way.

Olympiakos have signed Cypriot midfielder Costas Charalambidis from APOEL Nicosia, while Slovenian international defender Goran Sankovic has joined Panionios.

Lou Economopoulos

Dispute...Miroslav Blazevic

CROATIA

Blazevic out at champions

THE whys and wherefores conflict, but the fact remains that veteran coach Miroslav Blazevic has sensationally departed Dinamo Zagreb within weeks of leading them to the League championship.

The ex-national team boss had been appointed to take charge of his favourite club last summer by executive vice-president Zdravko Mamic, a friend of Blazevic. However, despite the coach winning the championship with something to spare over rivals Hajduk Split, the relationship between the two men was soon on the rocks.

Blazevic's version of events is that Mamic fired him because the coach refused to introduce young players from Mamic's player management agency to the Dinamo first team. Mamic claims that Blazevic ran away from the club, fearful of failure next season after the imminent sale of several key first-team players. Tomislav Butina has already signed for Club Brugge, Silvijo Maric with Panathinaikos, and Bosko Balaban is set to return to Aston Villa. Ivica Olic, Mihael Mikic, Mario Juric and Kristijan Polovanec are all likely to move too.

Mamic is now demanding the repayment of £200,000 from Blazevic, salary paid in advance for the second year of his contract. The coach is refusing because he claims he was fired and did not resign.

Blazevic has now surprised everyone again by taking the reins at Slovenian side Mura of Murska Sobota, who only narrowly evaded relegation in the season just gone.

Nikola Jurcevic, the former FC Zagreb coach, is the new man in charge of Dinamo.

Zdravko Reic

● The arrival of Miroslav Blazevic caused a sensation in **SLOVENIA**, especially the eastern Prekomurje region of the country, where Mura are based and where football is most popular. The club president is businessman Georg Suban, who was recently chief of another top division side, Koper, from the south-west. He was keen to develop the club but left to take over Mura when Koper city council showed little interest in helping him with his plans.

While Mura were making sure of their top-flight survival, Maribor were putting on a magnificent late surge to retain the League title having struggled earlier on in the season.

Publikum, who played the best football of any side, could finish only second, losing hope of the title when defeated 2-1 at Maribor on the penultimate matchday. The Cejle team also missed out on the Cup, losing on away goals to Olimpija after a 3-3 aggregate draw in the Final.

Round-up

Leotar spring surprise

SERB side Leotar caused a major surprise when pipping defending champions Zeljeznicar to the title in **BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**. The two sides had been level on points going into the last round, but while Muslim side Zeljeznicar suffered a shock 1-0 defeat at Siroki Brijeg, Leotar held their nerve to beat Rudar Ugljevik 2-1 away.

Leotar were in their first season in the national League having previously played in the internal Republic Srpska championship.

Zdravko Reic

Coach Gjokica Hadzievski has decided to quit **MACEDONIAN** side Vardar to look for a position abroad having just led the club to their fifth League title. His replacement is Zoran Stratev.

Former national team boss Gjore Jovanovski is the new boss of Rabotnicki Kometal in place of Mirsad Jonuz, and Serbian Nebojsa Petrovic has taken over at Sileks.

Cementarnica beat Sloga 3-2 on penalties in the Cup Final after an extraordinary 4-4 draw.

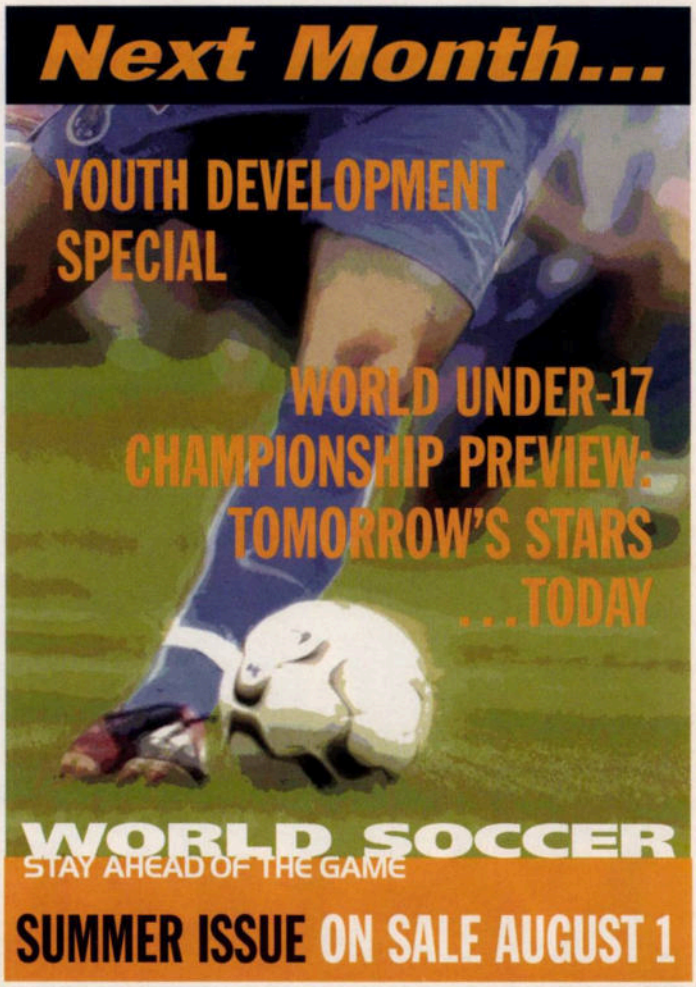
Michel Stojmanovski

In a pulsating end to the **MALTESE** season, Premier League runners-up Birkirkara beat new champions Sliema Wanderers in two Cup Finals within four days.

The Stripes took the FA Trophy (national Cup) after Michael Galea scored the only goal in the last minute. He then scored another in the 2-0 Super Cup Final win; Chucks Nwoko got the other goal.

Bulgarian coach Atanas Marinov has replaced Dennis Fenech at Valletta.

Domenico Aquilina



Romantsev removed

The long-time Spartak coach is fired after outburst at the club president, writes Victor Gusev

RUSSIA

MOSCOW SPARTAK coach Oleg Romantsev was fired three days after winning the Russian Cup following a prolonged war of words with the club's management.

The issue came to a head when the former national team boss, in charge of Spartak for 15 years, strongly criticised president Andrei Chervichenko at a press conference the day before the 1-0 Cup Final win against Rostov. Romantsev, 49, accused his boss of mismanagement and operating an unwise financial policy.

"Hopes that the arrival of a new leadership could bring the club up to European level have not come true," claimed Romantsev. "Spartak are the people's team, and the club's future must be determined by the people rather than by the ambitions of a few individuals."

Chervichenko, 36, who joined Spartak as Romantsev's vice-president in 2000 and replaced him as president last year, countered that the club were not happy with the coach's transfer policy and the team's evident regression.

Spartak, Russian champions nine times since 1991, finished only third in the League last year and lost all six first group stage games in the Champions League. This season, the team were only 13th in the League when Romantsev was sacked. The coach, who according to

Forced out...Romantsev's 15-year reign is over

Chervichenko, was "emotionally exhausted and needed rest" was offered "any position" in the team's administration. It was evident, however, that Romantsev would never accept such an offer.

The former Spartak defender and captain had been at the helm since 1988, leading them to the semi-finals of all three European club competitions. He combined the post with that of national team manager during the 2002 World Cup, resigning from the latter after defeat by Belgium in the last group game which signalled Russia's exit.

High flier...Maxim Shatskikh's title-winning goal put the seal on Kyiv's late surge

UKRAINE

Dynamo finish on fire

KYIV DYNAMO put on a remarkable finishing spurt to the season to clinch the League title with a game to spare three weeks after beating arch-rivals Shakhtar Donetsk in the Cup Final.

Dynamo had trailed Shakhtar by five points in early May, but overhauled them on the back of a five-game winning run, including a 2-1 home win over the Donetsk side.

The Double came after a troubled season when Dynamo struggled to find consistency and in the shadow of the death of legendary coach Valerii Lobanovskyi last year.

Dynamo were pipped to both the League and Cup by Shakhtar in 2001-02, so there was some element of revenge in their reversal of fortunes.

"Our young coach, Olexiy Mikhailichenko, has done a great job. He managed to keep the ship afloat even during the most difficult moments of the season," said Dynamo president Ihor Surkis.

Mikhailichenko paid special tribute to Brazilian Diogo and fellow striker Maxim Shatskikh, saying: "They created a very powerful force."

Shatskikh scored the goal that effectively secured the title in the 1-0 win at city rivals Arsenal. This put Dynamo three points clear of Shakhtar with a game to play and with a far better goal difference.

In the wake of Shakhtar's late-season flop, coach Valeriy Yaremchenko has made way for former Germany midfielder Bernd Schuster. The 43-year-old has signed a two-year contract after enjoying a successful spell with Spanish Second Division club Xerez.

Volyn-1 head coach Vitaliy Kvartsanyi has resigned and been replaced by assistant Stepan Pavlov.

Metalurh Zaporizhzhiya and Metalist have been relegated just a season after they finished fourth and fifth respectively in the League.

Oleg Zadernovsky

POLAND

Shame in Stockholm

SHAME and embarrassment were the two overwhelming emotions for Poles following the 3-0 Euro 2004 qualifying defeat by Sweden in Stockholm that left them with only a slim hope of reaching the finals.

However, FA chairman Michal Listkiewicz insisted coach Pawel Janas' job was safe, saying: "It would be nonsense to dismiss him after just half a year. Janas needs our support now – and I will back him."

On the domestic front, Wisla Krakow finished six points clear of Groclin Dyskobolia in the championship race to complete the Double. It is Wisla's third title since owner Boguslaw Cupial took a controlling interest in the club five years ago.

Groclin's runners-up spot was a personal triumph for chairman and owner Zbigniew Napierala, who has developed the club into one of Poland's top sides despite their home town of Grodzisk Wielkopolski having a population of only 12,000.

Defending champions Legia Warsaw finished a disappointing fourth, missing out on Europe, and prompting the resignation of Serb coach Dragomir Okuka. His assistant Dariusz Kubicki, the former Aston Villa and Sunderland player, has taken the reins. Legia's only cheer was the 24-goal tally of Stanko Svitlica, which made him top League scorer.

Ruch Chorzow, KSZO Ostrowiec and Pogon Szczecin filled the automatic relegation places, with

Zaglebie Lubin also going down after a play-off defeat by Second Division Gornik Leczna. The latter, and Division Two champions Gornik Polkowice, will be playing in the top flight for the first time next season.

Dariusz Kurowski

HUNGARY

MTK's title as Ferencvaros lose it

THE season ended in chaos when Ferencvaros failed to beat Debrecen at home, allowing rivals MTK to take the League title and giving rise to a violent pitch invasion that earned Ferencvaros fans a long-term ban from the club's Ulloi uti ground.

Debrecen held out for a 0-0 draw despite constant threats from both opposition players and spectators. Home fans rushed on to the pitch near the end, kicking and punching players and officials of the provincial club, who took refuge in the dressing-room until police restored order.

Two leading Ferencvaros players – goalkeeper Lajos Szucs and forward Attila Tokoli – registered their protest at the fans' behaviour by demanding transfers abroad. The club were fined £12,000 and ordered to play all home games behind closed doors until the end of the year.

On the same afternoon, Roland Juhasz scored the only goal in MTK's defeat of Ujpest to clinch the title.

At the bottom, Kispest-Honved, the legendary club of Ferenc Puskas and Jozsef Bozsik, were relegated after 87 years of top-flight football.

Peterjon Cresswell

Round-up

Zilina go back to back

MSK ZILINA secured a second successive **SLOVAKIAN** title with one game to go after a thrilling 2-1 winner-takes-all victory over closest challengers Slovan Bratislava.

Ed Holt

CZECH League winners Sparta Prague have signed up inspirational captain Karel Poborsky for another year.

Teplice won a UEFA Cup place after beating Jablonec 1-0 in the Cup Final thanks to a Tomas Hunal header.

Juventus midfielder Pavel Nedved has been voted the country's player of the season.

Sam Beckwith

Levski Sofia won the **BULGARIAN** Cup for the second year running, beating Litex Lovech 2-1 in the Final.

Ex-Dobrudzha coach Eduard Eranosyan has taken the helm at his old club, Lokomotiv Plovdiv, after the resignation of Dimitar Dimitrov.

Michael Bowesfield

Mounting debts are prompting an exodus from **ROMANIA'S** National Bucharest, with top scorer Sergiu Radu already signed by French side Le Mans. National

Staying put...Poborsky

lost out on the field, too, going down 1-0 to city rivals Dinamo in the Cup Final through Iulian Tames' spectacular volley.

Veteran striker Viorel Moldovan, who recently joined UAE side Al Wahda from Nantes in France, has announced his international retirement.

Michael Bowesfield

In **BELARUS**, Dinamo Minsk fired Bulgarian coach Georgi Gurov just a week after lifting the Cup following a 2-0 win over Lokomotiv Minsk. But poor League form cost Gurov his job, the final straw a 2-0 defeat by Torpedo-SKA dropping them to seventh place. Gurov's replacement is former USSR international Anatoliy Baidachnyi, who has worked with Russian sides Chernomorets and Rostselmash.

Oleg Zadernovsky

Dinamo Tbilisi completed the Double by winning their 11th **GEORGIAN** title with a 3-1 win over Sioni on the last day to finish two points ahead of defending champions Torpedo Kutaisi. Dinamo won the Cup four days earlier, again beating Sioni, by the same score.

Lokomotivi Tbilisi fired Peruvian coach Luis Tsakarias after finishing 10 points behind Dinamo.

Oleg Zadernovsky

Pro-file Dmitri Loskov

Midfielder firing the creative engine of Lokomotiv Moscow

THERE was more than a hint of inevitability when Lokomotiv Moscow midfield general and skipper Dmitri Loskov topped the poll for Russian Footballer of the Year for 2002. The 29-year-old did not just score the only goal of the game as Lokomotiv overcame city rivals CSKA in the League title play-off. All season, his creativity had been excellent, and he proved himself a fine captain, able to rally the troops in times of trouble and always willing to do his share of donkey work.

The Russian international's abilities were equally evident in his club's impressive Champions League campaign. Intelligent and skilful, he was on the footplate as Lokomotiv steamed into the last 16.

The club were to finish bottom of their second round group. But Loskov and co had the considerable satisfaction of giving mighty Real Madrid a huge fright in a 2-2 draw at the Bernabeu in December. "By getting through the first stage of the Champions League, we achieved our goal, and we can be proud," says Loskov. "We should draw great optimism from our performance in Madrid. With more fortune we might even have won there. A lot of people didn't believe Lokomotiv could win the Russian title and do well in Europe. The pessimists spurred us on."

Although born in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan, Loskov is very much a product of the Russian footballing system. After spending his first five years as a professional with Rostselmash in Rostov-on-Don, he moved in 1997 to Lokomotiv, where he has grown in influence year on year. He may not be particularly pacy, but his incisive passing, free-kick expertise, goals and energy offer abundant compensation.

Loskov has not enjoyed an international career worthy of his talent. He had to wait until he was 26 to make his Russia debut, ex-national boss Oleg Romantsev consistently preferring Alexander Mostovoi and Yegor Titov. And despite being picked regularly in the past few months by new boss Valeri Gazzayev, Loskov has, in truth, blown hot and cold.

He does not lack the talent to make the grade for Russia. The problem might be one of responsibility. At Lokomotiv he runs the show, he is the player his team-mates automatically look to pass to. For Russia, he does not have the same freedom and authority. Unfortunately, with Russia labouring on the road to Euro 2004, he could be running out of chances.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Lokomotiv Moscow
Country Russia
Born February 12, 1974, in Kurgan, Tajikistan
Previous club Rostselmash Rostov
International debut May 2000, v Slovakia
International caps 9 (0 goals)
Honours Russian League 2002; Russian Cup 2000, 2001

Suits you, Vanderlei

Brian Homewood on the resurgence at Cruzeiro of the sharp-dressing former national coach

BRAZIL

VANDERLEI LUXEMBURGO, sacked three years ago by Brazil amid a scandal over his tax returns and his age, has come bouncing back with Cruzeiro.

Luxemburgo, regarded as the best Brazilian club coach of his generation before his disastrous two years in the national team hot seat, has once again found his winning touch at club level, leading Cruzeiro to top place in the Brazilian championship and victory in the Copa Brasil.

Cruzeiro strung together a 36-match unbeaten run, stretching back to last year and taking in the Brazilian championship, Copa Brasil and Minas Gerais state championship, before going down 2-1 to Vitoria.

That defeat turned out to be only a minor hiccup. Shortly afterwards, Cruzeiro demolished Flamengo in the Copa Brasil Final, drawing 1-1 away at the Maracana then winning the return 3-1 in the Mineirao stadium after scoring three times in the first 30 minutes. It was the fourth time they had won the tournament since it was invented by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) in 1989.

All three second-leg goals came from crosses provided by the left foot of Alex, a player whose unquestioned talent is tempered by his tendency to drift out of games. Alex was part of the Palmeiras team who won the Libertadores Cup in 1999 and has had several chances in the national side, all of which he has so far wasted. His resurrection with Cruzeiro earned him another call-up, for the Confederations Cup, in what is expected to be a final chance to prove that he is not just a club player.

Other key men were Deivid, signed from Corinthians at the end of last season, and Colombia's much travelled Victor Aristizabal, who is now at his fourth Brazilian club after stints with Sao Paulo, Santos and Vitoria.

Luxemburgo, of course, would dearly love another stab at the Brazil job. When he took over after the 1998 World Cup, the expectations were that Brazil would sweep aside all before them playing the same stylish football that was the hallmark of the Palmeiras and Corinthians teams coached by Luxemburgo.

Instead, it was Luxemburgo's bitter rival Luiz Felipe 'Big Phil' Scolari who led Brazil to World Cup victory in 2002. Luxemburgo had tumbled two years earlier after an unprecedented series of defeats combined with an astonishing attack from a former business partner, who alleged that during Luxemburgo's days as a club coach he had earned commission on the sale of players.

Looking the part again...Luxemburgo

Tax returns probe

Two months after his dismissal, Luxemburgo was grilled over his tax returns by a Congressional commission of inquiry. The coach was found to have earned £6.5 million in the previous five years, was told that his income was not compatible with his profession and that his attempts to explain where he got the money from had been unsatisfactory.

Shortly afterwards, Luxemburgo – whose first name at the time was spelt Wanderley – admitted that he had been using a false birth certificate since he was a teenager, which cut three years off his real age. Luxemburgo said his late father had obtained the certificate, which he had used when he was a young player to jump down an age group, with all the obvious advantages.

All that has now blown over, although Luxemburgo still shows some of the traits that make him unpopular with large sections of the public.

After the end of the first leg of the Copa Brasil Final, he rushed on to the pitch to launch a furious verbal attack on referee Carlos Eugenio Simon. He still wears his expensive jewellery and suits, and at one game the cameras caught him placing a small towel on his seat to avoid getting the seat of his trousers dirty.

Luxemburgo is not the only man who has managed to pull his career from potential oblivion. Roberto Rojas, the Chilean goalkeeper banned for life by FIFA in 1989 after the infamous Maracana firecracker farce, has resurfaced as coach of Sao Paulo.

Rojas collapsed to the ground, apparently covered in blood, after the firecracker landed near him midway through the second half of the game against Brazil, prompting Chile to walk off the field. FIFA later declared the whole episode a farce, banned Rojas for life and Chile from the 1994 World Cup.

Rojas was playing his club football with Sao Paulo at the time and stayed there after the ban, discreetly working as the goalkeeper coach until FIFA granted an amnesty two years ago. He was given an unexpected chance on the touchline, initially on a caretaker basis, after Oswaldo Oliveira was sacked.

Rojas kept his job on an interim

Low key...Romario is back at Fluminense after a frustrating time in Qatar

basis for six weeks – longer than many 'permanent' coaches last in Brazil – before the club, tired of the huge wage demands from more illustrious coaches they approached, decided to offer him the job until the end of the year. Rojas celebrated with a 2-1 win over arch-rivals Corinthians in his next game in charge as the team jumped to fifth in the table.

The match was one of eight derbies that the CBF had scheduled for the same weekend. The decision divided opinion: some thought the idea was inspired, others said the *clasicos* should be spread out.

Depleted by call-ups

Everyone agreed, however, that the CBF had surpassed itself by concentrating the country's top fixtures into a weekend when the clubs were depleted by call-ups for the Confederations Cup. The result: Sao Paulo, missing striker Luis Fabiano and Ricardinho, and Corinthians, missing Gil, Fabio Luciano and Kleber, were watched by a paltry crowd of just over 17,000.

Cruzeiro were, meanwhile, missing four players – Aristizabal of Colombia and Alex, Maurinho and Edu Dracena with Brazil – for their grudge match against Atletico Mineiro. In the circumstances, they were happy with a goalless draw.

In one of the non-derby matches, Romario made a frustrating return to Fluminense following his three months in Qatar as they lost 3-2 at home to Goias. Although he scored an injury-time penalty, Romario barely touched the ball in an otherwise negligible contribution.

Romario admitted his move to Qatar's Al Sadd, where he played three games, failed to score and pocketed £750,000, had been a mistake. "If I'd known it was going to be so bad, I wouldn't have gone," he said. "Professionally, it was not a positive season."

He fell out with the Al Sadd coach, who wanted Romario to change his style of play – which basically involves lurking in the opposition's penalty area and waiting for the ball while the other players do all the work. "My problem was the coach, everything else was perfect," he said.

Pro-file Carlos Tevez

Poor boy bringing riches to Boca's forward line

BOCA JUNIORS' 19-year-old forward Carlos Tevez is this season's sensation in Argentina. Fans of traditional rivals River Plate will tell you that their midfielder Andres D'Alessandro is the best player in the League. But former Boca keeper Hugo Gatti says: "Tevez is much more than D'Alessandro. He's more aggressive, reads a game better and is certainly the one who has caused more impact."

A long-term prospect is a move to Spain, ideally Barcelona, where former Boca midfielder and mentor Juan Roman Riquelme is now based. Bayern Munich are also keen, and have made a £7.5million bid for the youngster. Then there is a senior international career to consider, with Tevez surely close to gaining his first cap.

But for the time being Tevez, born in the notorious, crime-ridden Buenos Aires suburb of Fuerte Apache, claims he is just happy to be able to play. He says: "I was born to play football. If I had not made it, I would be a scavenger – like the hundreds you see on Buenos Aires' streets at night trying to make a living by rifling through the trash for cardboard, paper or anything they can sell for a few coins."

After his early years playing street football in Fuerte Apache, Tevez, the son of a building labourer, was signed as an eight-year-old by All Boys, a Second Division club, before moving to Boca Juniors four years later. He made his First Division debut in November 2001 as an attacking midfielder, standing in for Riquelme. But it was soon apparent he was even more useful as a forward.

"He always goes in hard to fight for the ball with his whole body; it's rare for a striker to be so aggressive, and he is just as aggressive in protecting the ball," says Ramon Maddoni, Tevez's junior team coach at Boca. "He is extraordinarily agile, even at speed. He dribbles and shoots very well with his right foot, and only needs to improve with his left."

Boca have now rented Tevez and his family a house in a better neighbourhood. On the walls of the player's room are huge posters of Maradona – whom he resembles in terms of stocky build – Riquelme and Ronaldo. A Boca flag serves as a curtain, while his latest prized possession is David Beckham's shirt. Tevez played against Manchester United in a pre-season friendly at Old Trafford last year. "After the game, without knowing a word of English, I gestured to Beckham and he gave me his shirt and embraced me," says Tevez. "Later, Van Nistelrooy came to our dressing-room and asked me for my shirt."

It was not his first visit to England. In 1999, Tevez played for Argentina Under-15s in a tournament at Wembley – and scored with an overhead kick against France. "Who's going to believe me, that I scored an overhead-kick goal at Wembley?" he jokes. "Actually, I was more frightened of the flight – my first time in a plane – than of playing at Wembley."

Tevez barely featured for Boca in the early part of the current campaign because of his international commitments. He starred in Argentina's triumph in the South American Under-20 Championship in Uruguay, then began preparations for the World Youth Cup in the United Arab Emirates. But when that was postponed because of the Iraq war, Tevez returned to Boca, who had been struggling, and their results improved almost immediately. They rose up the domestic standings and reached the Libertadores Cup Final. There can be no doubt Tevez was the chief factor in the turnaround.

Eric Weil

Fact file

Club Boca Juniors
Country Argentina
Born February 5, 1984, in Buenos Aires
Honours South American Under-20 Championship

River on the rise

Eric Weil witnesses a change at the top as the closing campaign nears its finale

ARGENTINA

WITH the closing championship entering its final phase, River Plate rose to the top as title rivals Boca Juniors appeared to pay the price for their prolonged involvement in the Libertadores Cup.

Boca had been leading by a point with four games to play, but as they kept most of their first-team players in reserve because of the Libertadores semi-final against America of Colombia, the 'second string' could only draw 2-2 with Arsenal. Indeed, Boca were 2-0 down and only scraped the draw with goals from substitutes Carlos Tevez and Rolando Schiavi in the last eight minutes. On the same day, River, who exited the Libertadores in the quarter-finals, beat Lanus 4-3 away to leapfrog their eternal rivals.

The new leaders followed up with a 3-0 win over Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata the next week as Boca lost 3-1 at Talleres Cordoba.

Velez Sarsfield, the third team in the title shake-up, also dropped points when held to a 2-2 draw at Racing Club, now under Angel Cappa, in his second spell in charge, following the departure of Osvaldo Ardiles.

River Plate had received a psychological boost a fortnight before going top when looking the better team in a 2-2 draw at Boca. River were 2-0 ahead after dominating the first half but then had defender Martin Demichelis controversially sent off after receiving a second yellow card in the 36th minute. Boca fought back in the second half with two goals from Guillermo Barros Schelotto.

The Boca striker had been at the heart of the Demichelis dismissal, appearing to deliberately throw himself over the River player's leg. However, the referee saw it as a foul and brandished the card.

Former River coach Americo Gallego has left opening championship winners Independiente with the team in the bottom third of the table. His replacement is former national team captain Oscar Ruggeri, who hardly endeared himself to the fans by saying: "Independiente will give me the prestige to become national team coach."

Grinbank pulling out

More immediately, Ruggeri must establish what squad he will have available for next season. Daniel Grinbank, the businessman who brought a whole new team to Independiente last year, taking them from bottom in closing 2002 to top in this season's opening campaign, is pulling out. He is taking several players with him, but Ruggeri's only remark was: "It doesn't matter if Grinbank leaves, he's not going to play anyway."

There were no centenary celebrations for Huracan – once one of Argentina's Big Six – who have been bottom of the closing table throughout the campaign and are doomed to relegation. Huracan have offloaded most of their first team during the course of the season because of poor performances and replaced them with youngsters from their junior sides. They are also on to their third coach – junior team boss Jorge Celico – following the departures of Miguel Brindisi and Carlos Babington, but all to no avail.

There were 17 changes of coach this season to mid-June as clubs continue to believe, falsely, that they can improve their team's performances in this way – player transfers are not allowed during the season. Carlos Bilardo, a World Cup-winning coach with Argentina in 1986, received a tumultuous welcome when returning to take charge of Estudiantes de La Plata in May. However, although his side were unbeaten in eight games, six of them were draws.

Former referee Javier Castrilli has been appointed head of the sports security committee in the new government. Castrilli was nicknamed 'The Sheriff' during his days as a match official because of his strictness and the high number of players he sent off. He was later hounded out of the FA after making allegations about match-fixing.

Flashpoint...Demichelis' 'foul' on Boca's Barros Schelotto led to the River Plate defender's red card

S American round-up

Penarol contest Nacional triumph

NACIONAL won the **URUGUAYAN** opening championship with two games to spare, having built a nine-point lead over second-placed Penarol, their traditional rivals. Having drawn their first game, the defending champions won the next 14. The run included a 3-1 defeat of Penarol, with two of the goals coming from international forward Sebastian Abreu.

Penarol then called for the championship to be cancelled because of irregularities in the registration of Abreu, who was first suspended, then allowed to play by court order and finally suspended again. By then he had played eight games for Nacional and scored seven goals. He has now been transferred by Cruz Azul, for whom he was still registered, to another Mexican club, America.

Penarol's goal – a 26th-minute penalty by Pablo Bengoechea – ended the long unbeaten run of Nacional goalkeeper Gustavo Munua, leaving him 25 minutes short of the 987-minute Uruguayan record set by Penarol's Ladislao Mazurkewicz in 1968.

Nacional had a unique way of celebrating their derby victory, charging fans only 20p to see their next home game – a 4-2 win over Deportivo Maldonado which clinched the title. Supporters were also given a complimentary coffee or hot chocolate.

● **COLOMBIA:** Once Caldas won their first title for 53 years when beating Atletico Junior 1-0 on aggregate in the opening championship Final. Their triumph came despite having to postpone one of their league

Feeling champion...Monterrey's Guillermo Franco

Monterrey back on high

MEXICO

MONTERREY, under former Argentinian national team captain and coach Daniel Passarella, carried off their first League title since 1986 when beating Morelia 3-1 on aggregate in the closing championship Final.

The quality of the football was disappointing, however, in both the title decider and the knockout stages in general, while there was chaos off the field as several players were banned for having forged citizenship papers.

Morelia, the best side during the championship league stage, were undone by a freak goal as early as the first minute of the away first leg of the Final. Two defenders and the keeper all assumed one of the others would clear a loose ball, allowing Walter Erviti to run in unopposed on goal. Monterrey also scored in the first minute of the second half, through Guillermo Franco, and went 3-0 up after Hector Castro converted a dubious penalty.

Morelia did score a late consolation but never looked like pulling back the deficit in the return three days later. Passarella employed a safety-first 4-5-1 formation, which Morelia proved unable to break down, and the game fizzled out in a 0-0 draw. It was a disappointing end to a season during which all attendance records had been broken.

Meanwhile, eight players purporting to be naturalised Mexicans have been banned from the domestic game after their papers were found to be forged. The documents were allegedly provided by the players' agents in an action seemingly aimed at allowing clubs to take on more than the maximum permitted five foreigners.

Veteran Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker has taken over at America for the second time amid protests from fans and media alike. Beenhakker had poor results during his previous spell in charge of America and at Guadalajara.

National coach Ricardo Lavolpe has omitted Cuauhtemoc Blanco from his Gold Cup squad because of the former Mexico mainstay's recent disciplinary problems at club level with America and within the national team set-up.

Carlos Ramirez

● *The Gold Cup, being staged in the United States and Mexico, kicks off on July 12. See World Service for match schedule.*

stage games after 15 of the squad were taken to hospital with food poisoning.

The FA has had a block put on its earnings from the Confederations Cup and upcoming World Cup qualifiers due to a court case arising from the last Copa America. Meanwhile, Deportivo Cali face a £2.5million lawsuit from the widows of Herman Gaviria and Giovanny Cordoba, killed by lightning during a training match last year.

Former international keeper Rene Higuita has signed for Second Division Itagui. The 37-year-old recently left top-flight Deportivo Pereira because of unpaid wages.

● **CHILE:** Universidad de Chile, one of the country's three big clubs, are on the verge of bankruptcy, with debts of £14m and salaries unpaid to players for several months. Their situation is similar to that of Colo Colo, another of the big three, who were declared bankrupt last year but later had it lifted.

Meanwhile, Universidad have been frustrated in their attempts to prolong Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla's loan until the end of the year. Asprilla has an arthritic right knee, which, according to doctors, will not permit him to play regularly, while he also needs a month's rest.

● **BOLIVIA:** Bolivar stayed top in the opening championship despite having sold Joaquin Botero, last year's top scorer in South America, to Mexico's Pumas UNAM for £700,000.

Nelson Acosta, Chile's coach at the 1998 World Cup, has become Bolivia's national team boss. Acosta, who has been in charge of Cobreloa in his homeland, has agreed a four-year deal reportedly worth £480,000. The Chilean encountered his first problem when La Paz teams refused to release players for Bolivia's recent friendlies in Europe, which included a 4-0 defeat by Portugal in Lisbon.

Bitter departure...Jose Luis Chilavert

● **PERU:** Defending champions Sporting Cristal went clear in the opening standings with two games to go when beating Alianza Lima, with whom they had been sharing the lead, 5-2.

Argentina-born former Peru keeper Ramon Quiroga has taken over as coach at ailing Universitario. Quiroga played in the 1978 World Cup against Argentina, who won 6-0 in a match widely thought to have been fixed to allow Argentina to advance to the Final with a better goal difference than semi-final group opponents Brazil.

● **PARAGUAY:** Last year's overall champions Libertad won the opening championship with a 1-0 aggregate win over Guarani in the Final. However, Argentinian coach Gerardo Martino has now left the club and been replaced by compatriot Osvaldo Piazza.

Jose Luis Chilavert has vowed never to play for Paraguay again after being left out of recent friendlies. The 38-year-old keeper's parting shot was to accuse the FA of allowing the national team to be managed by businessmen who want to promote certain favourite players. The Paraguayan media has claimed Chilavert is also angry because the FA owes him £35,000.

● **ECUADOR:** Controversial referee Byron Moreno has claimed he has retired. "I don't want to be thrown out, so I am leaving through the front door," said the official, sanctioned by FIFA for errors during last year's World Cup and by his own FA after a local League match. "I am not happy about it, but I want to turn a new page."

Eric Weil

Nigeria make their point

The Super Eagles join Senegal and Algeria in the African Nations Cup finals, writes Mark Gleeson

Losing battle...a Mauritius defender lunges in to try to halt another Egypt attack during the 7-0 rout in Port Said

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALIFIERS

NIGERIA came from two goals down at home to Angola to snatch a draw and secure qualification for next year's African Nations Cup finals in Tunisia.

The Super Eagles needed only a point from their final Group 1 encounter to book their passage, but that looked in doubt as defender Figueiredo gave Angola a shock ninth-minute lead in Benin City. The visitors' captain, Akwa, made it 2-0 10 minutes into the second half before Nigeria scrambled their way back into the game with goals from two debutants. Uche Kalu scored the first two minutes after Akwa's strike, with Peter Odemwigie equalising from the penalty spot. Ifeanyi Udeze, captaining Nigeria for the first time, was sent off late on as tempers frayed, but the 10 men held out.

Senegal were the first side to qualify for the finals – hosts Tunisia and holders Cameroon taking their berths automatically – after beating Lesotho 3-0 in Dakar the week before in Group 8. Sedan striker Henri Camara scored two second-half goals after Liverpool's El Hadji Diouf put them ahead with a 26th-minute penalty.

Algeria were the other certain qualifiers with one round of matches still to play, after establishing a six-point lead in Group 12. An early goal from Nasreddine Kraouche settled their tie against Namibia in Blida.

Two other big hitters, Egypt and Morocco, are also virtually sure of going through after recent victories. Egypt's 6-0 win over Madagascar came two weeks after a 7-0 thumping of Mauritius, both in Port Said, leaving Madagascar needing to beat Mauritius by a cricket score in the final Group 10 encounter to pip them to top place.

Morocco beat main Group 7 rivals Sierra Leone 1-0 in Casablanca earlier in June and followed up with a 2-0 victory over Gabon in Rabat to leave themselves needing just a point away to whipping boys Equatorial Guinea to make sure of progressing.

Liberia were forced to play their 'home' qualifier against Guinea in the Ghanaian capital Accra and without their original squad because of the civil war at home. The Liberians lost 2-1 having played with a team that included former top division footballers now living in a refugee camp outside Accra. The intended squad's plane had been unable to leave Monrovia airport.

Holders Zamalek humbled

TANZANIAN club Simba caused one of the biggest upsets in the history of the **African Champions League** by eliminating holders Zamalek of Egypt 3-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to reach the quarter-finals for the first time.

The Dar-es-Salaam side, 1-0 up from the first leg, were expected to be bowled over in the return in Cairo. However, they came up against an over-confident and lethargic Zamalek at the end of a long and bruising season and playing their final match under much-maligned Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Cabral.

Zamalek battled for the equaliser, eventually netting through Abdelhalim Ali, but then blew their chance in the shoot-out.

Ghana's Hearts of Oak, the 2000 champions, failed to make the last eight for the third successive season, losing 3-2 on aggregate to AS Aviacao of Angola. Although Hearts did win the second leg 2-0 in Accra with goals from Joe Ansah and Edmond Copson, it was not enough to cancel out their first-leg mauling.

AS Aviacao joined Simba and Nigerian club Enyimba as newcomers to the league phase, which gets under way in August.

Former champions Esperance of Tunisia and Ismaili of Egypt both romped through with 6-0 wins in their respective second leg matches – Ismaili beat AS Port Louis 2000 of Mauritius for a 7-0 aggregate triumph, while Esperance were 7-1 aggregate winners over Highlanders of Zimbabwe in Tunis after Ivorian Amuah Diaky hit a hat-trick.

Also through are two other ex-champions, ASEC Abidjan of the Ivory Coast and Cameroon's Canon Yaounde, plus Algeria's USM Alger.

Wydad Casablanca of Morocco kept alive their hopes of retaining the **African Cup-winners Cup** by easing into the quarter-finals 6-2 on aggregate over Libya's Al Hilal.

Last year's runners-up Asante Kotoko needed a last-minute penalty from Ghanaian Isaac Boakye to edge out Mount Cameroon 5-4.

JS Kabylie, seeking a fourth successive **CAF Cup** crown, were unconvincing against AS Sonacos of Senegal, and needed the away goals rule to make the last eight.

Mark Gleeson

Round-up

CENTRAL AFRICA

Some 100 spectators were injured after a stand collapsed during an African Cup-winners Cup first round tie in Bata, **EQUATORIAL GUINEA**, between hosts Akonangui and Mount Cameroon.

Champions Canon Yaounde were the leaders at the halfway point of the season in **CAMEROON**.

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA fired German coach Jochen Figge despite still being in a good position to qualify for the Nations Cup. Asrat Haile has taken over for his second spell in charge.

UGANDA brought in former Argentina World Cup player Pedro Pablo Pasculli as coach for two Nations Cup qualifiers, shoving aside Paul Hasule despite his unbeaten record in Group 13.

Nzoia Sugar won the League crown in **KENYA** after beating Tusker FC 2-1.

Patrick Parizon has been fired as coach of **MAURITIUS** after their 7-0 Nations Cup qualifying defeat by Egypt.

NORTH AFRICA

Zamalek pipped bitter Cairo rivals Al Ahly on the final day of the **EGYPTIAN** season to win the League by a point. Arab Contractors were relegated.

In **MOROCCO**, African Cup-winners Cup holders Wydad Casablanca sacked Serbian coach Zarko Olaveric after just three matches in charge. He had been brought in to replace Argentinian Luis Oscar Fullone, now with Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa.

Al Ittihad clinched the **LIBYAN** League three weeks before the end of the season after going 14 points clear of Al Nasr.

Jean-Yves Chay has quit as coach of **ALGERIAN** club JS Kabylie six months after taking them to the CAF Cup title.

USM Alger followed up their League title by beating Chabab Belouizdad 2-1 in the Cup Final. Moncef Ouichaoui scored the golden goal winner.

Two-year ban...Dumisa Ngobe

SOUTHERN AFRICA

MALAWI cancelled a call-up for Canada-based Peter Mponda and MacDonald Yobe for the Nations Cup qualifier against Nigeria because of the SARS virus scare.

Former Malawi goalkeeper George Waya has died in Blantyre at 38.

ZAMBIAN striker Chaswe Nsofwa has moved from champions Zanaco to Russia's Kryliya Sovetov Samara.

Orlando Pirates regained the **SOUTH AFRICAN** Premier League title after cruising away from SuperSport United.

Former South African international Dumisa Ngobe, 30, has been banned for two years for assaulting a referee during a match in March.

Former Zambia coach Freddie Mwila has taken over from Eddie May at **ZIMBABWEAN** champions Highlanders.

WEST AFRICA

Former Portugal international Alexandre Alhinho is the new coach of **CAPE VERDE ISLANDS**, replacing Oscar Duarte.

Former Ghana coach Cecil Attuquayefio, who won the African Champions League in 2000 with Hearts of Oak, is the new coach of **BENIN**. He replaces Belgian Rene Taelman.

ASFA Yennenga won the **BURKINA FASO** championship for a second successive year but promptly fired coach Tchanile Bana, saying he "had not merited" the title. The new boss is 31-year-old Italian Gugliemo Arena.

MALIAN champions Stade Malien fired Ghanaian coach Mohamed Polo after being held to a 1-1 draw at home in the first leg of their African Champions League second-round tie against USM Alger. He was replaced by Cheikh Fantamady Diallo.

Mark Gleeson

Pro-file Aruna Dindane

Ebony and Ivorian live together in perfect harmony

IN A Belgian League full of talented African goalscorers, Aruna Dindane's six goals this season for Anderlecht should have garnered the Ivorian little positive attention. Aruna, as the 22-year-old is universally known, certainly wasn't anywhere near as prolific as the likes of Desire Mbonabucya, Sambegou Bangoura or Paul Kpaka, all of whom knocked in at least 15 goals. Nevertheless, he was the runaway winner of the Ebony Boot, the annual trophy for the best African player in Belgium.

The award is even more surprising when you consider Dindane missed two chunks of the season for violence-related suspensions. The second of them, at the start of the year, was for what his club rather charmingly described as "his unintentional elbow punch to referee Gumienny" during a game against Beveren.

That said, Dindane stayed high enough in the esteem of his fellow professionals in Belgium to come second in the overall Footballer of the Year award before picking up the Ebony Boot accolade, his biggest individual honour to date.

"I am delighted because so many good players have won it before me," said Dindane. "I look back on what people like [Daniel] Amokachi and [Celestine] Babayaro have done and I am full of admiration. Hopefully, in a few years' time, people will look back on what I have done with as much respect."

Most Ebony Boot winners have used the award as a springboard to join more competitive leagues, an ambition Dindane shares. For the meantime, the Ivorian has re-signed with Anderlecht until 2006.

So what are the qualities that make Dindane so precious to his club and able to scoop awards even when not scoring goals? For one thing, he is very skilful, a player who loves to take on opponents and who can operate equally happily as an out-and-out striker, behind the front two, or wide on the right.

This versatility has served Dindane well when called up for national team duty, since Ivory Coast have a plethora of talented attackers, including Bonaventure Kalou, Ibrahima Bakayoko, Dagui Bakari and new star Didier Drogba. Yet Dindane is a regular with the Elephants – just as he is a regular man of the match back in Belgium for his club.

But surely a man of his singular talents must feel he has achieved all he can in the three years he has been in Belgium? "There will come a moment when if I continue to play well I will leave. That's clear," says Dindane. "If you have already done everything there is to do somewhere, it is better to leave so you can keep progressing."

James Copnall

Fact file

Club Anderlecht (Blg)
Country Ivory Coast
Born November 26, 1980
Previous club ASEC Abidjan
Honours Belgian League 2001

Okubo brightens winless run

A new star emerged during the Confederations Cup preparations, write Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

Catching the eye...Yoshito Okubo

JAPAN

CEREZO OSAKA striker Yoshito Okubo was the toast of Japan in the national team's three Confederations Cup warm-up games. He gained his first two caps as a substitute in the 1-0 defeat by South Korea and the 4-1 loss to Argentina, but impressed enough to gain a starting place in the 0-0 draw against Paraguay and was unlucky not to score.

The 21-year-old is only 1.68m tall but fiercely combative and displays the skills of Shinji Ono. His performances were one of the few bright points about the friendlies for Japan, with the team failing to pass well enough and seeming to lack purpose.

Coach Zico lambasted his players after the Argentina game and changed nine of the starting line-up for the Paraguay match, retaining only captain Hidetoshi Nakata and keeper Seigo Narazaki. The result was a pleasant surprise – the team kept their shape well and played with commendable passion. Alex was especially effective as a wing-back, and Okubo, Yasuhito Endo, Keisuke Tsuboi and Nobuhisa Yamada all looked comfortable in their first starts.

In the J.League, Tokyo Verdy 1969 have turned to Ossie Ardiles to replace Lori Paulo Sandri as manager with the team third from bottom. It is Ardiles' third spell coaching in Japan after previously leading Shimizu S-Pulse and Yokohama F Marinos.

Kyoto Purple Sanga have fired their coach, German Gert Engels, after dropping to the foot of the table.

Japan striker Takayuki Suzuki is returning to Kashima Antlers after his unimpressive spell at Belgian side Genk.

Round-up

ASIA

HUMBERTO COELHO enjoyed his first victory since taking over as **SOUTH KOREAN** national coach earlier this year when his side beat Japan 1-0 in Tokyo at the end of May courtesy of an Ahn Jung-hwan goal. However, the team then lost 2-0 to Uruguay and 1-0 to Argentina, both in Seoul.

Ahn had been forced to miss the Uruguay game because of national service, still compulsory in South Korea. But the side's poor display prompted fans to send a volley of e-mails to the Defence Ministry pleading for him to be allowed time off to face Argentina. The ploy worked, but unfortunately, Ahn, shorn of his usual flowing locks, was unable to stop the Koreans slipping to another home defeat.

In the K-League, champions and early leaders Songnam Ilhwa lost top spot to Chonbuk Motors after a six-match winless streak.

Argentinian international Gabriel Batistuta has signed a two-year, £3.5million deal with **QATARI** side Al Arabi. The Inter striker follows Mario Basler, Stefan Effenberg and Frank Leboeuf in moving to the country.

Sepahan won the **IRANIAN** League by seven points from Pas, with last season's champions Pirouzi in third. Malavan Anzali and Sanat Naft Abadan were relegated.

Al Ittihad edged out Al Ahli 3-2 to win the King Fahd Cup in **SAUDI ARABIA**. Osamah Al-Moulad scored the winner.

Hoang Anh Gia Lai won the **VIETNAMESE** League in the season after they were promoted to the top division.

SINGAPORE club Sembawang Rangers have signed Thai Player of the Year Cumpee Pinthakur from Suphanburi Warriors. Meanwhile, the FA has banned Balestier's Ali Imran for six months, Geylang's Noor Ali for a year and Effendi for 18 months for betting on League matches.

Olympic Beirut lifted the **LEBANESE** title for the first time, pipping defending champions Nejmeh.

Veteran Romanian striker Viorel Moldovan has joined Al Wahda in the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** on a one-year contract from French club Nantes. The move comes after French coach Rolland Courbis also joined Al Wahda. However, the club were beaten on penalties by Sharjah in the President's Cup Final.

Al Ain's French coach Bruno Metsu has renewed his contract for another season. Metsu, the former Senegal coach, guided Al Ain to a record eighth League title and the Super Cup in his first season in charge.

Qatar move...Batistuta

Wong Tai Sin defeated Kwai Tsing 5-3 on aggregate to lift the Nike Challenge Cup in **HONG KONG**.

Tollygunj Agragami beat Mohun Bagan 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to win the Yamaha Libero Cup in **INDIA**.

Negri Sembilan beat Perlis 2-1 in the **MALAYSIAN** FA Cup Final, Everson Martinelli scoring the golden goal winner.

Michael Church & Azam Mahmood

OCEANIA

PERTH GLORY'S **AUSTRALIAN** Grand Final triumph this year was a case of third time lucky. Twice in the previous three years Glory had reached the championship decider as hosts and overwhelming favourites only to lose.

This time round there were no such problems as the West Australians defeated holders Sydney Olympic 2-0 in a disappointing encounter.

Mich D'Avray's men dominated throughout the game, once again played at Perth's home Subiaco Oval stadium, and deservedly took the lead after half an hour. Jamie Harnwell outjumped two defenders to head in a corner.

But despite their supremacy, Glory had to wait until three minutes from full time before clinching the title through a strike as scrappy as the game. Olympic defender Ante Juric, in attempting to intercept a low cross, played it into the path of Damian Mori, whose miscued shot just eluded goalkeeper Clint Bolton.

A Rupert Ryan hat-trick, completed during the second minute of stoppage time, enabled Miramar Rangers to defeat East Auckland 3-2 in **NEW ZEALAND'S** League Grand Final, played at North Harbour stadium. Ryan twice put the holders ahead, before Kara Waetford and then substitute Joey Waugh equalised for Easts, who were formed less than a year ago.

Madang, playing on home soil, won the championship in **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** for the first time since 1990 by beating holders Lae 2-0 in the Final. Richard Lange and Terence Sisu scored the goals.

League winners Pirae were denied the Double in **TAHITI** when beaten 4-3 on penalties by Manu Ura after a goalless draw in the Polynesian Cup Final.

Sogi have regained the **SAMOAN** League title they lost last year, finishing four points ahead of Kiwi.

In **NEW CALEDONIA**, AS Magenta claimed their first championship following a remarkable comeback in the Grand Final against JS Baco. Magenta were 3-0 down with five minutes to play but two goals from Pierre Wajoka and an injury-time equaliser from Christophe Hinageje forced extra-time. The demoralised Baco conceded two more goals during overtime. Substitute Joel Wasaumie put Magenta ahead before Wajoka completed his hat-trick and the scoring.

Navua created the biggest surprise in **FIJIAN** domestic soccer history when snatching the FA Cup with a 1-0 defeat of overwhelming favourites Rewa in the Final.

The southern rice-farming district side had never won any major silverware, having gained senior status in 1989, and to add to the surprise secured their win with a headed golden goal from the smallest man on the field – 19-year-old Esala Ali.

Paul Moon

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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

Beckham deserved better from United

'The club's absolute contempt for Beckham was made cruelly manifest by their behaviour'

"THERE used to be a football club here," said an embittered Keith Burkinshaw when sacked years ago by Tottenham. David Beckham might well be tempted to say the same thing. Whether or not Manchester United in general and Alex Ferguson in particular were keen to be rid of him, there were surely other ways of doing it; ways less crude than doing an alleged deal with someone who wasn't even in a position to do it.

I'm referring, of course, to Joan Laporta, who at the time he approached United through an intermediary was no more than a presidential candidate at Barcelona. United's absolute contempt for Beckham, his status and feelings were made cruelly manifest by such behaviour. If the intention was to humiliate him as severely as possible, it could hardly have been better devised.

Best of enemies...Ferguson and Beckham's relationship deteriorated

Readers of this column will know that I am not a devoted fan of Beckham as a player. It has been pointed out long enough, not least in an uncharitable moment by the hugely more talented George Best, that he lacks acceleration, ball control and ability in the air. For these, of course, he has compensated to greater or lesser degree with his superbly powerful and accurate right foot, whether it be used for dead-ball kicks or for long-range shooting or for supremely accurate crosses. Large if not entire compensation for not, like the classic right winger, being able to get to the line.

Beckham's father has told us that his son and Ferguson had not been speaking for months. The breakdown may well have stemmed from that piece of childish petulance in the United dressing-room when Ferguson kicked out at a boot which cut Beckham above the eye. An accident beyond doubt, but still an action hard to forgive.

I thought Beckham's response was laudable: no outburst of recrimination, just the use of a headband and a couple of pieces of plaster, which said it all.

It has been said that Ferguson was fed up with Beckham's gaudy lifestyle. Well, he wasn't the only one, though you do wonder just how much of it all has been pushed and promulgated by his dominating wife, Relatively Posh Spice. Or was it a joint decision that at their horrible, vulgar wedding they should sit on thrones? Still, as Groucho Marx poignantly said, better *nouveau* than never.

I feel pretty sure that it was Relatively Posh who decreed their ill-fated trip to the United States, where soccer being in the parlous professional state it is and perhaps, alas, always will be, David Beckham is strictly David Who?

Beckham was then off to the Far East to fill his pockets even fuller. But since it was the close season, and since United make such huge fortunes out of his image in the Far East, where was the valid objection? Could there have been a green eye flickering somewhere?

Real Madrid? Do they want him for himself and his football as Barcelona, for all their finagling, plainly did? Or just for his image rights? Already the young keeper, Iker Casillas, has said: "Beckham is more about marketing than playing." The sporting director, Jorge Valdano, has told us he would like Beckham as a central midfielder, which makes sense to the extent that at least Luis Figo, a so much more gifted player, would stay where he should do, on the right.

I'm not sure about Beckham the central midfielder. And already young Guti has been upset by the prospect of losing his place. But then, as we alas know, images these days are images.

Remembering Reg

REG DRURY, so cruelly killed when he was knocked over by a car near his home in Finchley, north London, was one of the leading football writers of his time, universally trusted, immensely knowledgeable, famed for his integrity – and cutting, Cockney humour. He was also a cherished friend and for some years captain of my Sunday football team, Chelsea Casuals.

He had grown up in the footballing ambience of Hackney Marshes, close to where he was born, playing largely for Jewish clubs, though he wasn't Jewish himself. He could probably have gone much further in the game since, at 16, he played in a public trial for Enfield, then a top senior amateur team, scored three goals for the reserves and was offered a place. But another offer, to work for a Tottenham weekly paper and cover Spurs, was irresistible.

He went on to work, like myself, for *Sport* magazine, and for *Reynolds News*, where his integrity and encyclopaedic knowledge made him outstanding. Finally, for 18 years, he was at the *News of the World*, becoming chief football correspondent. Managers and players trusted and admired him.

England's defence: the hole story

LUCKY England. They should have been down and out at half-time against Slovakia at Middlesbrough, the visitors having wasted chance after easy chance to increase their lead.

England's defence, playing behind the much-trumpeted but now discredited midfield diamond formation, was a colander. What was it doing on the fatuously soft goal, when no central defender got his head to the ball, and keeper David James let it bounce in at his left-hand post? How could it be that simple crosses left opposing strikers quite unmarked, only for Slovakian strikers to shoot feebly wide of the target?

The whole of that so-called England defence deserves to be consigned to the Orwellian Memory Hole. Matthew Upson is a good club player but will never make an international. Gareth Southgate, at this level at least, has a great future behind him. Danny Mills is clearly out of his depth. And the most damning thing said about Ashley Cole is that he is good going forward. Isn't a left-back meant to defend?

As for the midfield, Sven Goran Eriksson, with persistent obstinacy, simply won't use the left-footed Gareth Barry on the left flank, or give Joe Cole the chances he deserves. Look at his fine goal and the powerful shot he had saved against Serbia. Paul Scholes doesn't score any more, and Phil Neville's England career should have ended when he conceded that penalty against Romania at Euro 2000.

What's going on?...Upson and James at odds over England's defence

Turkey-Macedonia: the wrong result

THE horrific behaviour of the Turkish ruffians in Istanbul when Macedonian midfielder Sasko Lazarevski was knocked out by a missile should have had one consequence only: the award of the match to the visitors. That was always the case in Italy, when such an outrage led automatically to the match being awarded 2-0 to the injured team.

Analogies with what happened at Sunderland when England played the Turks are irrelevant. Certainly the violence was appalling, not least outside the stadium. Certainly the pitch invasions were outrageous. Certainly the FA deserved to be heavily fined and could hardly have complained had they been sentenced to stage their next international behind closed doors. But no Turkish player was hit by one of a rain of missiles, no official speaker exhorted and encouraged the crowd over the tannoy, spewing out libels against the visiting team, whose only offence was that they were threatening to win the game.

There is no place for such savagery in football, but unless it is severely punished, we shall see it again.

Bone of contention...Ireland's controversial winner against Albania

Write the 'throw-back rule' into law

IGLI TARE and Hans-Peter Briegel both had a valid point when they complained furiously about Ireland's injury-time winner against Albania in Dublin. The goal stemmed from a throw-in, conceded by Albania after they kicked the ball out to allow Tare to receive treatment for an injury. But instead of Ireland giving Albania the ball back from the throw-in, they retained possession, Stephen Carr crossed and a hopeful shot by substitute Gary Doherty produced the own goal that won the game.

German manager Briegel and Tare himself were outraged that Ireland should have ignored the unwritten law that in such circumstances the ball should always be returned to the team whose player was hurt. They knew, they admitted, that there was no legal obligation to do that, but they expected better behaviour from the Irish.

My mind went back to that FA Cup tie at Highbury between Arsenal and Sheffield United when Nwankwo Kanu set up a similar kind of goal for Arsenal, a winner with a very different sequel. There was instant shock, protest and anger from the United players and their then manager, Steve Bruce.

At the subsequent press conference, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, a French Corinthian you might say, suggested that the match be replayed. In no time at all the answer came from the FA and their executive David Davies that indeed it should be. So it was, and Arsenal duly won again.

Morally, Davies was in the right; legally he was irredeemably wrong. There is still no Law of the Game decreeing that in such circumstances the 'injured' side have an automatic right to get the ball thrown back to them. Giving the ball back, in other words, is like a good deed in a naughty world, one that usually and properly brings sympathetic applause from the crowd. But it has not yet been given any basis in reality.

The analogy with what happened that afternoon at Highbury is not a strict one. While the Irish, allegedly fed up with the Albanians' histrionics, may well have known just what they were doing, Kanu, by contrast, appeared to be acting in all innocence. Yet it is surely clear the International Board, the game's law-making body, should act urgently and should have acted long since.

If this is, so to say, a custom more honoured in the observance than the breach, if ambiguity persists the logical thing is to make the unwritten law official.

August 1970

THE World Cup dominated the pages of *World Soccer* 33 years ago.

Brian Glanville praised the winners, Brazil, as "the first team since the Hungarians of the Puskas, Kocsis and Bozsik era to prevail through sheer attacking brilliance". But he added: "It is fair to say the 1954 Hungarians were stronger in defence than the 1970 Brazil."

Eric Batty, echoing Glanville, felt that overall the quality of football in Mexico had been good, with Brazil worthy winners. However, he felt the Final – Brazil 4 Italy 1 – had been a disappointment. "There were flashes of top-quality football and some fine goals, but generally the Italians managed to take the edge off most of the good things the Brazilians tried to do and contributed nothing themselves."

In that month's editorial, editor Philip Rising envisaged "the time when professional football will continue for 12 months of the year". In England, the pre-season Watney Cup meant players involved in the World Cup finals had little rest.

"The problem of playing during the summer is a complex one," Rising wrote, "but a series of tournaments through May and June to early August could be a thing of the future."

WORLD SOCCER, August 1970

ERIC BATTY'S VIEW ON MEXICO 70

GOOD WORLD CUP, WORTHY WINNERS BUT POOR FINAL

SLIPPED

WORLD SOCCER, August 1970

TEN

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORLD CUP

BRAZIL SHOW BRILLIANCE

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

Memorable

Darkness

WORLD SOCCER, August 1970

THREE

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Close season is a thing of the past

BY THE EDITOR

IT was while putting the finishing touches to this issue of "World Soccer" that a headline in a London evening newspaper caught my eye. Part of it read, "Football's only 34 days away," referring to the start of the new season in England.

Football, in fact, was much closer. England had a pre-season tournament, the Watney Cup, to enjoy and by mid-July the bulk of the British professionals were deeply involved in training.

One can envisage the time when professional football will continue for 12 months of the year, but the demand for summer league soccer in England has died down in recent years. The problem of playing soccer during the summer period is a complex one, but a series of tournaments through May and June to early August could be a thing of the future.

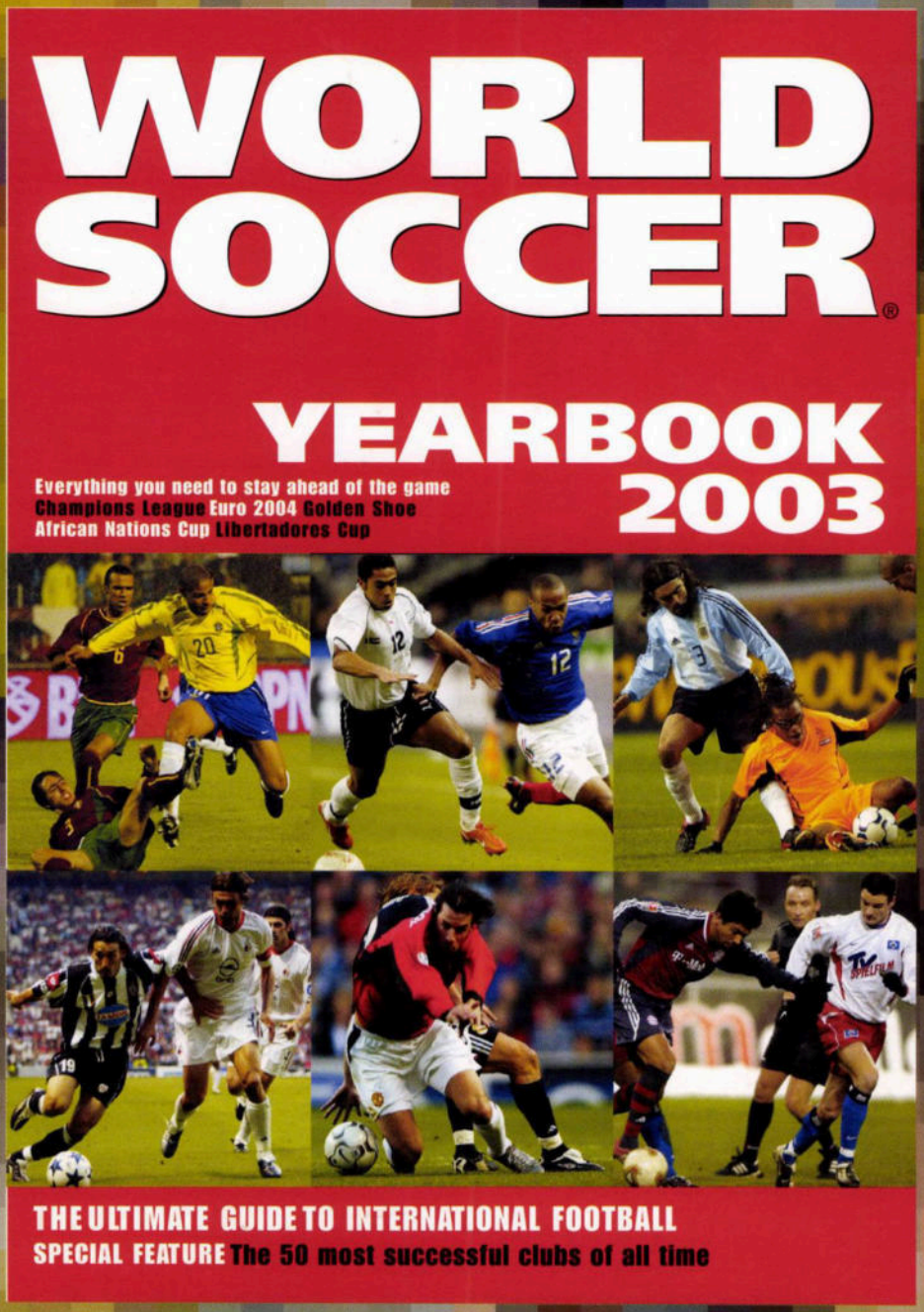
This year the World Cup and the Watney Cup have helped to considerably condense the English close-season as one has only to see the number of young boys playing soccer in the local parks to realise how eagerly the new campaign is awaited.

For many players there is already no close season. West Ham and England players Bobby Moore and Geoff Hurst, for example, took up coaching engagements in Africa soon after returning from Mexico. Bobby Charlton spent two weeks in Australia.

Certainly there is no close season for "World Soccer". There is always football news being made in some part of the world and it is our intention to ensure that that news is brought to you. Increased coverage of all the continents on which soccer is played is high on our list of priorities for the immediate future.

A number of new features will commence next month including Forthcoming Events, which will list the dates of major events (internationals, cup finals, etc.) scheduled for the months ahead.

The ultimate guide to international football...



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